

Hafa Adai!

IPI receiver asks court to release over \$35K commission. **PAGE 4**

USCG invites Saipan public to view helicopter, meet crew. **PAGE 6**

\$1

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China tourists could return by May

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the United State's decision to lift the testing requirement for visitors from China, prospects for the CNMI's tourism industry are looking up, with its largest market looking at a possible comeback sometime in May.

See **TOURISTS** on Page 4

Report: CUC failed to adopt changes to rates due to absence of PUC since 2014

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Without a functioning regulatory commission since 2014, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been unable to adopt changes to its rate schedule to achieve full-cost recovery and financial sustainability as required



Aldan

» Report finds CHCC owes over \$50M in utility bills to CUC to date

by law, according to a report prepared by the CUC Transition Team.

The report, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, also noted, among other issues, that the Commonwealth Healthcare

See **CUC** on Page 4

China to reopen to tourists, resume all visas Wednesday

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
199

By ZEN SOO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG (AP)—China will reopen its borders to tourists and resume issuing all visas Wednesday after a three-year halt during the pandemic as it sought to boost its tourism and economy.

China is one of the last major countries to reopen its

See **VISAS** on Page 4

Vet clinic services 70 animals; more planned

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The veterinary care clinic conducted by the Saipan Humane Society and the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido, which

ended last Saturday, was able to provide services to 70 animals, thanks to visiting veterinarian Dr. Whitney Collins.

Then this April 10 to 14 at the same location, the Mayor's Dog

See **VET** on Page 4



Volunteer veterinarian Dr. Whitney Collins did not only service cats and dogs during the vet care clinic at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido, but she also treated a horse and a wild bird during her visit to the CNMI. Other photo shows Dr. Collins checking a pet dog.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Simon Graf is the new general manager of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, starting last Feb. 15.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

The combination of black, white, and gold is a win for those looking for a warm and luxurious look.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Vanity Fair's post-Oscars party was full of moments of joy after a drama-free Academy Awards.

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Local

Isla Montessori celebrates 5 years in the CNMI

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

The staff and students of Isla Montessori School in Dan Dan gathered with parents, supporters and donors on the school grounds last Thursday to celebrate the school's fifth anniversary and to look back at the challenges that faced the school in that period as a reminder of Isla Mon-

tessori School's history of resilience.

School head Tatiana Ilmova thanked all those gathered, and all who have been involved in the school's history for being a great support system. "These five years were quite a journey for us. ...We started this school in 2018. It was two Montessori teachers and four families who really believed

that Montessori education on island is extremely important. We also wanted to create a school that would not just be Montessori, but a school that will also be connected to local culture. Through Montessori Education, we bring Chamorro and Carolinian cultures to our younger generation. This was our vision and mission and it still is now." Ilmova shared that, after

investing hard work, time and money to build up the school in 2018, that's when Super Typhoon Yutu hit, completely devastating one of their classrooms. In just two months the school was able to rebuild the classroom and, as a nonprofit organization, they did it for free. It wasn't long after that when the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic hit. Ilmova said that hitting



Isla Montessori School students perform the CNMI national anthem during the school's fifth anniversary celebration last Thursday at the school's facility in Dan Dan.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

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***Promotional rate offered for a limited time from March 13 through close of business day March 31, 2023.

the five-year mark despite the many obstacles the school has faced since its inception is just one of the displays of resilience and hard work among the school's staff and supporters.

"And Montessori education is a hands-on education so it's not easy to transfer it and make it online so it was a very challenging time for us," she added.

They also lost a teacher in the process, but, despite this, the school was one of the first schools to reopen in the CNMI during the pandemic.

"Last year the economic crisis...hit us, and lots of families could not afford private schools... so we are surviving through all these obstacles because of the help of our community, and I want to thank you so much. ...Through all these obstacles, we survived. We so proud of how it looks right now. We're so proud of where we are right now with our students, with our facility, with our teachers. And I can tell that after all these obstacles we're ready to meet our success."

One of the mothers present at the event, Hyun Jae Lee, said that when her daughter comes home from school, she'll always say, "I love my teachers." "And I think that says a lot about how much work and love they put into their students," said Lee.

Another parent, Anastasia Inos, said she loves

the concept of Montessori. "But I also love the teachers that are so warm and kind."

Inos said her daughter has grown a lot. "We came here for the summer camp, and she started coming to school in September, and it's very good to see how she matured. She began to vocalize her ideas, she became very verbal, she's very productive, and I love that," said Inos.

One of the school's teachers, Pazlee Martinez, is happy that the school has lasted its fifth year. "We came back stronger, and we're really happy and excited to see what is ahead of us."

Although the Montessori method is not totally new to the CNMI, Ilmova said that what makes their school different is that they integrate the CNMI's indigenous culture into the Montessori education. Since the beginning of the school's inception, she and the other founders desired to not only attempt to keep the island culture alive in education, but also provide this information to children who have moved to the CNMI.

The Montessori philosophy helps children learn using three methods—hands-on learning, learning through classmates, and learning through the help teachers—in a way where children can enjoy the activities, not feeling like they are being forced to learn but rather enjoying the process of learning and storing up knowledge. Isla Montessori also helps the children learn to live independently in a fun way, learning the basics of cleaning, building, planting, carpentry, and pottery.

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NMC Project PROA hosts its first Mental Health Summit



NMC

Amy Soliman, a participant of the Time to H.E.A.L mental health summit, participates in a group activity.

Northern Marianas College's Project PROA (Promotion Retention Opportunities Advancement), in collaboration with 4H Marianas, provided a safe space for over 110 attendees to talk openly about mental health at its first mental health summit called Time to H.E.A.L.—“Heal, Empower, Advocate, and Love”—last week.

The event, which is being planned as an annual event, had college students and community presenters from Northern Marianas College, Community Guidance Center, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Trench Tech Purebred Saipan.

The event's purpose was to educate students on the significance of mental health in college life and

adulthood, with a focus on healing, empowerment, advocacy, and love. As a result of the major calamities that have plagued the CNMI in the past several years, there is great need for mental health and academic support for NMC students. Due to the CNMI's economic decline, there is a decline in support for student services, specifically those focused around mental health and academic success.

The program consisted of welcoming remarks from NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., and Charlotte Cepeda, dean of Student Support Services, followed by a panel of distinguished individuals: NMC associate professor Dr. Beylul Solomon, NMC assistant professor Jesse Pangelinan, and CGC prevention specialist Fredrick

“Fred” Fatialofa. The summit featured panel discussions, breakout sessions, and activities that focused on different aspects of mental health, including the impact of trauma, maintaining mental health, recognizing signs of distress, coping with stress, addressing the effects of cyberbullying, and creating a safe environment for everyone.

“Time to H.E.A.L. was an amazing event, and we are proud of what we were able to accomplish with the help of our entire team and community members and organizations present,” Project PROA director Kaelani De-



NMC

Community Guidance Center prevention specialist Fredrick “Fred” Fatialofa addresses participants during a panel discussion with NMC associate professor Dr. Beylul Solomon, NMC assistant professor Jesse Pangelinan, and Project PROA director Kaelani Demapan.

mapan said. “We hope that our attendees left feeling empowered, enlightened, and motivated to take care of their mental health and advocate for others.”

Project PROA aims to host this event annually and hopes to provide students with the resources and knowledge they need to maintain good mental health and academic success through its Proa Pathway Partnership grant.

The mission of Proa Pathway Partnership is to improve and expand the ca-

capacity of NMC to increase the number and proportion of disadvantaged Asian American and Pacific Islander students residing in the CNMI to successfully graduate from college and enter meaningful careers. The Proa Pathway Partnership's goals are to help students identify career paths, attain job skills, and gain research experience that aligns with their educational and career goals in preparation for their transition into a four-year research university; and provide stu-

dents with direct access to mental health and academic support on campus and virtually.

Project PROA and the Proa Pathway Partnership are federally-funded programs under the U.S. Department of Education's Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution grants and serves both high school and college students.

For more information, visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

House passes contraband bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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COMREPORTER

The House of Representatives passed last week a bill that aims to provide clarity to the crime of promoting prison contraband and outlines appropriate punishment. House Bill 23-17, HS1 now goes to the Senate for action after all 19 House members present voted “yes.”

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who is the author of the bill, said in an interview that this is actually a recycled bill that he first introduced in the 22nd Legislature.

Sablan said he is re-introducing the bill because the CNMI does not have any statute that deals with contraband being brought inside the local prison. “We need to prevent contrabands from entering prison facilities and this is the reason why I introduced this [bill],” he said.

Sablan thanked the Department of Correction as well as the Office of the Attorney General because they



Sablan

worked together on this legislation.

According to the bill, current CNMI law regarding prison con-

traband is quite antiquated, and does not take into account the current needs of DOC to secure its facilities.

Clarification in the law is needed to define what items are prohibited, along with appropriate penalties for those who introduce, possess and promote contraband in correctional facilities.

Enacting the prison contraband statute will provide DOC a more enforceable mandate that can deter inmates, detainees, correctional officers, contractors, volunteers, and the public from possessing contraband in any of the CNMI's correctional facilities.

The bill defines what items are considered contraband.



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IPI receiver asks court to release over \$35K commission

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Clear Management Ltd., the court-appointed receiver tasked with selling off Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's gaming equipment to satisfy pending judgments against them, has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to release over \$35,000 in commission it earned following two recently approved auctions.

Michael White, Clear Manage-

ment's lawyer, has asked the District Court for the NMI to authorize the release of over \$35,000 collected from the second and third auction of IPI's gaming equipment as commission for the sale of the equipment.

"Clear Management respectfully moves that the court authorize and direct disbursement, from funds held in the Escrow Trust Account of The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, to Clear Management, Ltd., as commission on the sales at the second

and third auctions, and as commission on the sales of additional playing cards to Angel Playing Cards, in the amount of \$35,424.92," said White.

According to the memorandum submitted in support of the motion, Clear Management is entitled to 10% commission on all proceeds earned from the IPI auctions.

"In its memorandum decision appointing Clear Management as limited receiver, this court provided that Clear Management would be entitled

to a commission of 10% on all sales proceeds. In its order on Feb. 14, 2023, the District Court approved the receiver's report of the sales made at the second and third auctions, \$252,092.00 and \$101,550.00, respectively. In addition, the receiver has recently received the sum of \$607.20 from Angel Playing Cards, for the sale of additional playing cards. Thus, the total sales on which commission is due are \$354,249.20. Clear Management's 10% commission is \$35,424.92," White said.

According to court documents, after the second auction, bids were received from eight bidders but only four were successful.

Of the four successful bidders, two

were successful bidders from auction one and two were new bidders. There were four unsuccessful bidders, of which one was a successful bidder from auction one, White told the court.

The total of the acceptable bids was \$252,092.

Following the third auction, White said bids were received from six bidders.

White informed the court that bids were accepted for 14 lots from two different bidders, two of which were successful bidders in previous auctions, and one a new bidder.

White said the total value of the bids accepted was \$101,550.

The court officially approved these sales last Feb. 9.

CUC

From Page 1

Corp. owes CUC more than \$50 million to date.

Rep. Vincent Aldan (Ind-Saipan) served as the team leader of the CTT.

Among the CTT recommendations for the administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang is to petition the U.S. District Court for the NMI, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Justice to rescind the waiver of qualifications for the position of CUC's executive director.

CTT also recommended to petition the federal court, EPA, and DOJ for the appointment of a qualified interim executive director, while the CUC board of directors searches for a permanent executive director who meets the required qualifications.

The CTT also determined that CUC has accomplished milestones as part of its energy management solutions for an improved power generation program.

On the subject of the Public Utilities Commission, which is tasked with regulating CUC as a utilities firm, the CTT found that the commission lacks a quorum, and has failed to function effectively in the absence of a quorum and sufficient budgetary resources since 2014.

Commonwealth law created the PUC as an independent agency within the Executive Branch composed of five appointed members. Its primary role is to exercise regulatory oversight over utility entities, including CUC, as to "all rates, fares, fees, charge, services, rules, conditions of service, and all other matters pertain-

ing to the formation, operation, and/or direction of a regulated entity."

The CTT determined that CUC and PUC do not have a board quorum to approve any Fuel Adjustment Charge greater than 4.5%, even as fuel costs have risen greater than 4.5% in the last two fiscal years.

The CTT recommended that the Palacios-Apatang administration immediately appoint within its first 100 days in office qualified individuals to the PUC to establish the required quorum in reviewing and approving rates that will allow CUC to perform cost-recovery measures.

With respect to CHCC's over \$50 million debt, the CTT noted that factored into negative revenue over expenses recovery is CHCC's failure to meet payments of its utilities bill.

The CTT recommended to the administration to include on its list of priorities reaching a settlement resolution with CHCC on more than \$50 million in collection arrears to shore up CUC's financial standing.

The CTT also recommended prioritizing filling the CUC board of directors so it could establish a quorum, hiring a qualified executive director, and executing CUC functions as required by law and by CUC policy rules and regulations.

The CTT noted that the lack of quorum in CUC's board of directors inhibits CUC from setting the appropriate rate structures, executing procurement solicitations and other important functions that allow the corporation to address infrastructure enhancements, maintenance, and other critical services.

The current members of CUC board include Janice Tenorio of IT&E, former Imperial Pacific In-

ternational (CNMI) LLC chief executive officer Donald Browne, and Tinian mayor chief of staff Allen Perez. The Senate has yet to confirm the administration's appointees to the CUC board.

Last Feb. 21, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho resigned as executive director, to take effect upon the expiration of his contract on March 26, 2023.

Also on that same day, Feb. 21, CUC pro tem board chair Janice Tenorio designated Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr., deputy director for electric power systems, as acting executive director "until further notice."

The CTT stated that significantly, the executive director position, recognized by EPA and DOJ as CUC's "singularly most important position," was filled by Camacho, who does not meet the minimum qualifications set in CNMI law or the federal stipulated orders.

In 2017, then-governor Ralph DLG Torres and the CUC board petitioned the federal court to temporarily waive the qualification requirements in the stipulated orders so CUC can hire Camacho as executive director.

The CTT noted that the DOJ and EPA entered into a stipulation with CUC in which EPA indicated that "it did not approve but will not object" to Camacho's appointment, and CUC agreed to continue to seek candidates for future position vacancies who meet or exceed minimum qualifications in the stipulated orders. The joint stipulation did not modify the stipulated orders.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

amount of time training the volunteers at Saipan Humane Society on various veterinary procedures that can be performed by a veterinary technician, such as clinical assessments, blood draws, and humane euthanasia for animals that are suffering.

Collins also visited Rota to assist with conservation work and discuss dog population management with Rota Mayor Aubrey Hocog and the Rota Municipal Council.

Collins plans to return to the CNMI on a regular basis, offering veterinary care, ongoing training for the volunteers at Saipan Humane Society, and conducting conservation work. "I want to thank Mayor [Ramon "RB"] Camacho and the Dog Control Program for allowing us to use their facility. The Dog Control Program staff and Saipan Humane Society are a great team,

and I really enjoyed my time working with them. The island and the people were wonderful. I feel that we made a lot of progress and look forward to returning," she said.

Collins is particularly interested in conserving the fragile ecology of islands and protecting endangered and endemic species.

To sign up on the waitlist for spay/neuter or other services, go to www.tinyurl.com/saipanhumane

When the volunteers at Saipan Humane Society begin scheduling, they will reach out to people on the waitlist to assign appointments.

To donate or volunteer, reach out to saipanhumane@gmail.com.

Saipan Humane Society is seeking financial contributions, food vouchers for volunteer veterinarians, accommodation donations for visiting volunteers, coupons for activities, and United Airlines miles.

VISAS

From Page 1

borders to tourists. The announcement Tuesday came after it declared a "decisive victory" over COVID-19 in February.

All types of visas will resume from Wednesday. Visa-free entry also will resume at destinations such as Hainan Island as well as for cruise ships entering Shanghai that had no visa requirement before COVID-19.

Visa-free entry will resume for foreigners from Hong Kong and Macao to enter Guangdong in southern China, and foreigners

holding visas issued before March 28, 2020, that are still valid will be allowed to enter China. The notice didn't specify whether vaccination certificates or negative COVID-19 tests would be required.

The move would "further facilitate the exchange of Chinese and foreign personnel," according to the notice posted on the websites of numerous Chinese missions and embassies.

China had stuck to a harsh "zero-COVID" strategy involving sudden lockdowns and daily COVID-19 testing to try to stop the virus before abandoning most aspects of the policy in December amid growing opposition.

TOURISTS

From Page 1

Commonwealth Port Authority chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said that CPA has already received inquiries from Chinese airlines interested in returning to Saipan.

With this, the CNMI could possibly see the return of Chinese tourist as early as May of this year, King-Hinds said.

"Yes, we have received inquiry from the China market. Beijing Capital has [already] reached out to CPA expressing an interest to resume services sometime in May," she said.

Because the Chinese market makes up about 41% of the CNMI's tourism industry, the interest in returning to the CNMI is welcome news, King-Hinds said.

"This is welcome news not just from a ports operators perspective but also for the economy in general. The China market represented 41% of the market prior to the pandemic and in order us to return to the level that we were...we need that market to come back online or find an alternative market to replace that loss. For CPA to bring down costs, we need more airlines coming to the CNMI," she said.

The inquiry comes following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recent announcement rescinding its previous order requiring passengers flying from China to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to boarding, or proof of recovery from COVID-19.

The CDC website states: "On March 10, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention... has rescinded order titled 'Requirements for Negative Pre-Departure COVID-19 Test Result or Documen-

tation of Recovery from COVID-19 for Aircraft Passengers Traveling to the United States from the People's Republic of China."

According to CDC, this rescission took effect for flights departing for the United States from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Macau, and others after 3pm last March 10.

According to the official order, CDC first issued an order last Dec. 30, 2022, prohibiting the boarding of passengers 2 years of age or older on an itinerary that included the United States on any aircraft departing from the PRC, including the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau; or any aircraft departing from a Designated Airport if the passenger had been in China within the 10 days prior to their departure for the United States, unless the passenger presented paper or digital documentation of a negative result for a COVID-19 viral test taken no more than two calendar days before the departure of the flight or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. The order was issued in response to concerns that COVID-19 cases were surging in the PRC.

However, current available epidemiologic data through global datasets and modeling results indicate that the COVID-19 surge experienced by the PRC has returned to a baseline level.

"According to World Health Organization data, daily cases peaked at 7,000,000 cases per day on Dec. 23, 2022, then declined 99% by Jan. 24, 2023, leveling off around 20,000 cases per day from Jan. 24 through Feb. 21, 2023," the order stated.

This massive decline in cases seen per day and other available data prompted the CDC to rescind its December 2022 order.

VET

From Page 1

Control Program and Saipan Humane Society will be hosting Dr. Brenda Smith from Guam Animals In Need and their team for another spay/neuter clinic.

There is also a clinic being tentatively planned for May/June.

In the recently concluded clinic, Collins not only serviced cats and dogs, but also treated a horse and one wild bird.

According to Saipan Humane Society founder Lauren Cabrera, "Members of the community were excited to meet with a veterinarian and discuss various health issues facing their pets and were also provided with rabies vaccines, which are necessary for travel off-island."

In addition to providing veterinary care, Collins spent a large

High court partially affirms, partially reverses accident damage award

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed and reversed in part a trial court decision awarding damages in *Antonio v. Baek*, 2023 MP 2. The high court decision was issued on

March 14, 2023. According to a CNMI Judiciary new release yesterday, it said the plaintiff was driving along with her infant son when the defendant caused

an accident. The plaintiffs sued the defendant and requested damages for medical care, pain and suffering, lost income, loss of enjoyment of life and for injuries to her son.

At trial, it emerged that the plaintiff had already been experiencing for many years some of the pain and other difficulties that she blamed on the accident. Based on her

doctor's testimony, the trial court found that the accident exacerbated her preexisting condition. It awarded damages for medical care, but denied any damages for all the other categories, finding the evidence insufficient. The plaintiff appealed, arguing that the trial court had improperly put on her the burden of proof for apportioning harm between the accident and her preexisting condition.

The Supreme Court held that the trial court correctly placed the burden of proof on the plaintiff. It also agreed with the trial court that the plaintiff provided insufficient evidence

for lost income, loss of enjoyment of life, and for injuries to her son. However, the Supreme Court found that there was sufficient evidence to award damages for pain and suffering, specifically the expert testimony from plaintiff's doctor. The Supreme Court held whenever a court awards damages for medical care, damages for pain and suffering must follow. The Supreme Court remanded the case for the trial court to determine how much should be awarded for pain and suffering. For further information, contact the Supreme Court at Supreme.Court@NMIJudiciary.gov. (PR)

Friends of San Jose Tinian takes on annual Tinian Fiesta



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Friends of San Jose Tinian is collaborating with the Tinian Mayor's Office to host the upcoming Tinian Festival that will serve as a fundraiser to support the restoration of the sole Catholic Church on Tinian that was devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu.

The nonprofit organization Friends of San Jose Tinian, in collaboration with the Tinian Mayor's Office, will host the annual Tinian Fiesta that will also serve as a fundraising event, with all proceeds going toward the restoration of Tinian's sole Catholic church.

According to the Friends of San Jose Tinian, the group is set to work closely with the Tinian Mayor's Office to turn the Tinian San Jose Fiesta into the biggest annual community fundraising activity to help raise funds

to rebuild Tinian's Catholic church and to support annual youth ministry activities.

"We are excited to lead the planning of this annual event and to rally our community to support the effort to rebuild a permanent concrete church for our community," said Kimberlyn King-Hinds, co-chair of the Friends of San Jose Church.

"The annual fiesta used to be focused on bringing the community together to help the church and over the years, it has morphed into just another community festival. We

want to bring the focus back to the church, and to rally our community to come together and take ownership of the rebuilding of our church," King-Hinds added.

This year's San Jose Fiesta community festivities will be from April 28 to 30, 2023. The Mass celebrating the feast of San Jose the Worker will be on Monday, May 1, 2023.

The Friends of San Jose are also looking for sponsors for this year's event.

For those interested in sponsoring the event and for more information, email

friendsofsanjosechurch@gmail.com or follow the Friends of San Jose Church Tinian or the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan's Facebook page. (Kimberly B. Esmores)

Check if you're eligible for appliance rebate vouchers

If you are a homeowner residing on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota and plan on replacing inefficient home appliances with ones that are energy-efficient or Energy Star-rated to save on your energy bill, you should contact the Energy Division Office at (670) 664-4480/2 to verify if you are eligible to receive appliance rebate vouchers to help you defray the total cost of replacement appliances such as refrigerators, clothes washers, and or

room air-conditioners. Certain conditions may apply.

Office hours are from Monday to Friday, except for legal holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

For additional program information or inquiries, contact reporting specialist Maile H. Iakopo at (670) 664-4480, or program manager Vincent S. Attao at (670) 664-4482 at the Division of Energy Office. (PR)

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Attorney for Petitioner Christopher H. Fitzgerald

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF : CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0036-CV
WILLIAM M. FITZGERALD, : NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS
DECEASED : TESTAMENTARY AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS


TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE WILLIAM M. FITZGERALD OR HIS ESTATE:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Christopher H. Fitzgerald has Petitioned the above-entitled Court for the issuance of Letters Testamentary with regard to the above-referenced probate Estate and that a hearing will be held on the Petition on April 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the above-entitled Court at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any person who has any objection to the Petition may file his or her objection with the Commonwealth Superior Court at any time before the hearing or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.
Anyone having claim or claims against the deceased or his Estate must file such claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this Notice. Any claims received thereafter will be forever barred.
DATED: March 9, 2023
PATRICK DIAZ
Clerk of the Superior Court
/s/
By Deputy Clerk for Court
/s/ Judge Joseph Norita Camacho

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Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/22/2023)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- A. Off-island Wholesalers
- VII. Director's Report
- A. OPA Filing of Statement of Financial Interest for Calendar Year 2022
- B. Independent Dental Practice Monitoring Reviewer – Dr. Song Rhim
- VIII. Investigator's Report - None
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
- A. Governor's Office
 1. Revisions to the Appropriation and Budget Authority Act for FY2023
 2. Budget Call for FY2024
- B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- A. Proposed Amendments for § 185-10-2600 - Dentists, Dental Assistants, Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
- A. New Application
- B. Renewal Application
- Miscellaneous Business
- XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XIV. Announcements
- A. Next Meeting Date
- B. Adjournment of Meeting



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

03/01/2023
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 733	CDBG	Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment for DFEMS	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	\$644,160.80	(\$9,316.80)	0	\$644,160.80
2016	CDBG	PY2016 Unobligated Funds Available to commit			(\$13,216.45)		
2018	CDBG	PY 2018 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$14,972.43)		
2019	CDBG	PY2019 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$24,914.28)		
2020	CDBG	PY2020 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$15,157.50)		
IDIS#715	CDBG	Kagman Community Park, Phase 2 Project		\$245,000.00	(\$66,690.00)	\$178,310.00	\$245,000.00
IDIS#763	CDBG	Renovation of Tinian Little League Baseball Field		\$330,000.00	(\$75,000.00)	\$255,000.00	\$330,000.00
IDIS#757	CDBG	Outdoor Fitness Court Facility (Rota)		\$115,166.40	(\$115,166.40)	0	\$115,166.40
Total Reprogrammed to Activities:					(\$334,433.86)		
IDIS# 756	CDBG	Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan Multi-Purpose Facility	Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan	\$195,000.00	(\$45,520.00)	\$240,520.00	\$195,000.00
IDIS# 758	CDBG	Outdoor Fitness Court Facility (Tinian)	Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs	\$115,166.40	(\$94,833.60)	\$210,000.00	\$115,166.40
IDIS# 764	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services	\$123,100.00	(\$36,900)	\$160,000.00	\$123,100.00
IDIS# 765	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Basketball Court	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services	\$20,000.00	(\$20,000.00)	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00
NEW	CDBG	Demolition of Perilous Structures (Rota)	Municipality of Rota		(\$137,180.26)		
Total Reprogrammed to Activities:					\$334,433.86		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds over \$100,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and in Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before April 03, 2023 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447

USCG invites Saipan public to view helicopter, meet crew

By **CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR**
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—A U.S. Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point and crew are scheduled to hold a search and rescue demonstration and static display on Saipan on March 18 and 19, 2023.

Residents can expect to see and hear the aircraft in the Saipan area from March 18 to March 20. The aircrew is forward deployed to Guam from Hawaii for six weeks serving

the people of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands while working with U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam to assess the feasibility of more frequent operations in the islands.

■ **WHO:** Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Cinque, aircraft commander, and the aircrew

■ **WHAT:** Search and Rescue Demonstration

■ **WHEN:** Saturday, March 18, 2023, 5pm to 6pm

■ **WHERE:** Outer Cove Dock, visitor parking at Smiling Cove Marina

■ **WHAT:** Static Display and Tours

■ **WHEN:** Sunday, March 19, 2023, from noon to 3pm

■ **WHERE:** Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Football Field

The MH-65 Dolphin helicopter is a short-range recovery helicopter used by the crew to perform search and rescue, law enforcement, and homeland security missions. It is certified for all-weather and night-time operations,



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR
An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew deployed to Guam from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii flies patterns to assess winds and terrain before conducting rescue hoist training at Sella Bay Overlook in Guam on March 8, 2023.

except for icy conditions, and it routinely deploys aboard certified cutters providing manned airborne surveillance and interdiction capabilities. The airframe was first added to the Coast Guard inventory

in 1984 and has undergone several upgrades.

In recent memory, these operations mark the first deployment of a Dolphin helicopter crew to Guam and the CNMI. The District 14 assigned aircraft are primarily used as a search and rescue platform in the Main Hawaiian Islands and as an augment aboard major cutters on deployment to extend their range for search and rescue, law enforcement, and surveillance while at sea. The aircrews frequently participate in community relations events and subject matter exchanges to build awareness for service capabilities and encourage interest in the aviation career field.

“The Dolphin here now is not a replacement for any other agency but another resource to help us accomplish our mis-

sions and serve the people of Guam and the [CNMI],” said Simmons. “They are currently here on a six-week deployment as we field test the feasibility of their operating here in a greater capacity. This approach is an innovative way to employ aircrews in the Indo-Pacific for increased presence and value. We hope to get them out here more frequently and are pleased to have the support of the Air Station and the District 14 command.”

The operations have precedent. In 1947 the service established a Coast Guard air detachment consisting of one PBY-6A *Catalina*, a flying boat and amphibious aircraft, and crew at the Naval Air Station, Agana, Guam, to provide aerial logistics support for LORAN stations in the southern

Marianas and Western Caroline Islands. The *Catalina* was well suited to operations in the islands, able to haul cargo but also land in the shallow lagoons and offload to skiffs. The Coast Guard air detachment, by then called an air station, was disestablished in 1972 as LORAN missions changed and commercial air services were more readily available.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam comprises nearly 300 personnel throughout the response, prevention, administrative, and logistics departments supporting the Joint Rescue Sub-Center, three fast response cutters, a small boat station, and a marine safety detachment on Saipan. The unit provides a significant portion of the U.S. Coast Guard’s enduring regional presence serving the people of the Pacific by conducting our six major operational mission programs: maritime law enforcement, maritime response, maritime prevention, marine transportation system management, maritime security operations, and defense operations.

Childcare providers undergo emergency response training

Child Care and Development Fund providers completed the virtual training on Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Planning last Saturday, March 4, 2023.

This training was facilitated by Evergreen Learning coach Russelle Mae M. Ignacio, and was made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, CNMI CCDF program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. (PR)

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Attorney for Petitioner Bernadita T. Seman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0016-CV
FELIPE MCGUINNESS SEMAN AKA FELIPE IGIBOR SEMAN	NOTICE OF CONTINUED HEARING ON PETITION TO REOPEN ESTATE TO PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX
Decedent:	Next Court Date: April 6, 2023 Time: 10:00 A.M. Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE FELIPE MCGUINNESS SEMAN AKA FELIPE IGIBOR SEMAN OR HIS ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing matter is continued to April 6, 2023 at 10 am.

On March 2, 2023 Petitioner Bernadita T. Seman appeared on her Verified Petition to Reopen Probate and Appointment as Administratrix for the foregoing estate. Ms. Seman appeared with counsel Robert T. Torres. Mr. Torres informed the Court that he had been informed that the heirs of deceased heir Ines S. Ada had indicated that they proposed decedent’s nephew Francisco S. Ada as a co-administrator. Mr. Torres informed the Court that Ms. Seman would not agree to be co-administrator but that if Mr. Ada wished to propose himself, Ms. Seman would concede subject to his examination as a proposed Administrator. Further, Ms. Seman informed that she would have to be reimbursed for her fees and costs in filing the petition in this matter. Mr. Torres informed that since there is no stipulation and no notice given to other heirs, the matter may need to be continued to give proper notice to other heirs.

Matthew T. Gregory appeared with his client, heir Remedio Buniag. Ms. Buniag registered her objection to Ms. Seman’s appointment as administratrix. Further, heir Jose T. Seman appeared pro se and informed the Court that he supported Ms. Seman as the Administratrix and did not agree to Mr. Ada as the Administrator. The Court then discussed the matter with the parties and heirs, directing that the parties/heirs may confer but that proper notice be given as to the proposals made or being considered.

This Notice of Hearing shall be published, and all heirs/creditors/claimants shall be given notice and they may file any agreements or position statements on or before the hearing date on April 6, 2023.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2023.

/s/
Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC-011
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 17th, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
“CHCC INPATIENT ROOM RENOVATIONS (COORDINATION, OVERSIGHT, MONITORING AND CONSTRUCTION) FOR CHC HOSPITAL / INPATIENT DEPARTMENT”
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on February 23, 2021, Mr. Estevan P. Cabrera, a member of the 19th Tinian Municipal Council, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.
Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Cabrera is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.
NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.
Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net **on or before March 29, 2023**.
Dated this 15th day of March, 2023.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT
for Modernizing Grid Infrastructure Through Transformer Acquisition
(SAIPAN – Tuesday, March 14, 2023) – The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 20, 2023 at 4:30 pm** in the **CUC Conference Room No. 17** on the **third floor** of the **Joeten Dandan Building** for the **Modernizing Grid Infrastructures through Transformers Acquisition** project. This proposed project to be funded under the *U.S. Department of Energy (DOE): Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid. Pursuant to the Open Government Act (OGA) (1 CMC Section 9901 est. Seq).*
The purpose of the public hearing is to explain a proposed solution to improve the Saipan power distribution system by purchasing and installing replacement step down transformers for the Chalan Kiya substation as part of the grid resilience project.
These transformers play a critical role in providing reliable sustainable power supply to the southern half of the Saipan community, which include residences, businesses, schools, the airport, traffic lights, water wells, sewer lift stations, fire stations, churches and many more establishments.
The public is encouraged to attend this hearing to learn more about this proposed project to improve the CUC power transmission and distribution grid.
Comments may be emailed to adrian.reyes@cucgov.org with the subject line titled **“Comments for Public Hearing: Modernizing Grid Infrastructure”** by **Monday, March 27, 2023**.

THIRD FLOOR, JOETEN DANDAN BLDG.
P.O. BOX 501220 SAIPAN, MP 96950

T: (670) 664-1282 • F: (670) 235-5131
www.cucgov.org

Bank of Guam donates \$5K to NMC Foundation

Bank of Guam has generously donated \$5,000 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation in support of their upcoming Golf Open on March 18 and 19.

"We are proud to support the Northern Marianas College Foundation and its mission to provide scholarships and educational opportunities to students in the CNMI," said Marcie Tomokane, vice president/CNMI regional manager of Bank of Guam. "As a com-

munity bank, Bank of Guam is committed to investing in the growth and development of the communities we serve. We believe that supporting education is a crucial part of that commitment. We hope that our donation will help the NMC Foundation continue to provide students with the resources they need to succeed."

For the first time, NMC's tournament will be a two-day event and will be held on the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam donates \$5,000 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation, in support of their upcoming Golf Open on March 18 and 19, 2023. In photo with NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., is BOG vice president/CNMI regional manager Marcie Tomokane and BOG staff.

Saipan farmers urged to enroll in Farmer's Registry Program

The Saipan Mayor's Office has opened a Farmer's Registry Program and those who register in this program will be included in data that will be used to avail of funding opportunities that aim to expand and advance the farming industry on Saipan.

The registry will also be used to disseminate any vital agricultural information as received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho encourages all farm-

ers and farming enthusiasts to stop by his office as registrations forms for the Farmer's Registry Program are readily available. The Mayor's Office is located at the CTC Building on Teer Dr. in Oleai, behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's track and field complex. You may also call the office at (670) 234-6208 for any questions, concerns, or additional information. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. (PR/Saipan Tribune)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CBMA soliciting assistance for Project: CNMI Wellness

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs is notifying healthcare providers, labor unions, and the public that it has solicited no-cost assistance from the U.S. Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program.

The assistance will provide no-cost healthcare services to underserved residents of the CNMI through basic medical, dental, optometry, behavioral health, and veterinary (small animal) examinations and services for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in the spring/summer of fiscal year 2024.

Anyone who has any questions or wishes to express any opposition to military assistance for this project may contact Daniel Aquino, special assistant to the governor for Military Affairs, at 670-788-0935, or by email at daniel.aquino@gov.mp; or by mail at Caller Box 10007; Saipan, MP 96950. (PR)

Tsunami evacuation planning needs your input

To better develop the CNMI's initial tsunami evacuation plans, assembly places, and routes, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Pacific Coastal Research and Planning is holding town hall meetings across Saipan and have already visited Achugao, Garapan, Susupe, and Chalan

Kanoa. The last session will be held this Thursday, March 16, at the Hopwood Jr. High School, from 5pm until 7pm.

The main discussion of these meeting will be focused on what areas are actually threatened by a tsunami, where one can find a space to assemble during an evacuation, and evaluate and discuss the best routes and evacuation in such assembly areas. HSEM and the PCRPA are seeking the community's inputs and expertise on not only planning but also to add if there needs to be any revision made to the current evacuation zone maps.

To see the current and monthly updated tsunami evacuation zones for each island in the NMI go to <https://arcg.is/H0P48>.

For more information on the community-based event, or to make special inquiries you may email Mario Kaipat at Mario.Kaipat@cnmihsem.gov.mp or contact Robbie Greene at Robbie.Greene@PacificCRP.org. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake in San Jose, Tinian

At 11:07pm on March 11, 2023, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 13.877°N 146.779°E of San Jose Village on Tinian, NMI. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237 — 8000. (PR)

east and west courses of the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generous donation from Bank of Guam," NMC Foundation chair said. "This contribution will have a significant impact on our mission to support the educational goals of Northern Marianas College students. Thank you to the Bank of Guam for their commitment to the success of our College."

This year's tournament will feature thousands of dollars in amazing hole-in-one prizes, such as a brand new 2023 Toyota 4Runner SR5 from

Atkins Kroll Saipan, a brand new 2023 Hyundai IONIQ 5 SEL with Navigation and AWD and a brand new 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander from Triple J Motors, a brand new 2023 Nissan Rogue from Joteten Motors, a \$10,000 shopping spree at Top Shelf Wine and Spirits, \$10,000 from Ambyth Shipping and Seafix Inc., \$5,000 from Pacifica Insurance, \$3,000 from McDonald's of Saipan, and a YETI cooler from Boarderline.

The tournament, which is the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to

raise funds for the college for its rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. In the wake of the devastation and destruction of Super Typhoon Soudelor and Yutu, the college has been aggressively seeking funds from all available sources to rebuild classrooms, offices, labs, and workforce spaces for the CNMI community. The foundation is seeking the CNMI private sector's support through fundraising events like the golf tournament.

Interested companies and individuals who would like to help the college with its

rebuilding efforts can donate educational tax credit, cash, or in-kind contributions by visiting www.marianas.edu/golf or by contacting NMC Foundation coordinator Carla Sablan at carla.sablan@marianas.edu or (670) 237-6780.

Golfers who would like to register for the upcoming tournament can also visit www.marianas.edu/golf. Only on-line payments are accepted for this upcoming golf open.

For more updates, follow NMC on Facebook and Instagram (nmc.proa) or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

PUA applications due before March 27, 2023

The CNMI Department of Labor would like to notify the public that both Initial Applications and Weekly Certification Forms for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program will no longer be accepted by the department effective March 27, 2023.

Additionally, the depart-

ment would like to clarify the following:

- Initial Applications and Weekly Certification Forms previously submitted to the department that are still unprocessed do not need to be resubmitted, unless requested by your respective adjudicator.
- Supporting documents

for existing claims will still be accepted beyond March 27, 2023.

■ Although the PUA Program's Period of Performance has been extended by the U.S. Department of Labor — ETA to June 30, 2024, the Benefits Period remains the same and is as follows:

- PUA Phase 1 (Feb. 2,

2020 — Dec. 26, 2020)

- PUA Phase 2 (Dec. 27, 2020 — March 13, 2021)

- PUA Phase 3 (March 14, 2021 — Sept. 4, 2021)

Contact the PUA program via email at info@puamarianas.com or by phone at (670) 322-8870/71/72 or (670) 664-3298 for further information about this announcement. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/MSO-009

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APR 17TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES-STOCK ITEMS"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH.I). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

"ADDENDUM"
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/IT-008A

BROADBAND SERVICES UNDER THE FCC HEALTHCARE CONNECT FUND

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 21, 2023 TIME: 5:00PM (CHST)

MODIFICATION OF BID FROM ITB TO RFP AND AMENDMENT TO THE TECHNICAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH.I). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
 PO BOX 501055-SAIPAN-MP-96950
 PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
 WEBSITE: WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-23

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED FIRM(S) SERVICING THE AIRPORT INDUSTRY AND SPECIALIZING IN AIRPORT FINANCE RELATED REVENUE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public Corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby requests proposals from qualified and experienced firm(s) servicing the airport industry and specializing in airport finance, related revenue planning and development, and passenger facility charges. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning February 15, 2023, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the RFP Package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the proposer awarded for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Christopher S. Tenorio, Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority either by facsimile, or email cpa.receptionist@ptcm.com with copy to skye.hofschneider@cnmiports.com on or before March 09, 2023.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Professional Services to provide Airport Finance, Related Revenue Planning and Development, and Passenger Facility Charges, Project No. CPA-RFP-006-23". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. Local Time, March 20, 2023, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid/proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the proposal would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
 Executive Director

Date _____

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 52Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Developing accord could vastly improve oceans' survival chances

There's hope yet for Planet Earth. Representatives of 70 nations along with oil companies and major shipping lines have agreed in principle on a plan to stabilize oceans, limit exploitation and preserve habitats for marine life. That might not seem like such a big deal for landlocked Missourians, but there's not a place on Earth that doesn't depend one way or another on the health of the world's oceans and the abundance they provide. And they are dying rapidly, threatening to take the rest of the world with them.

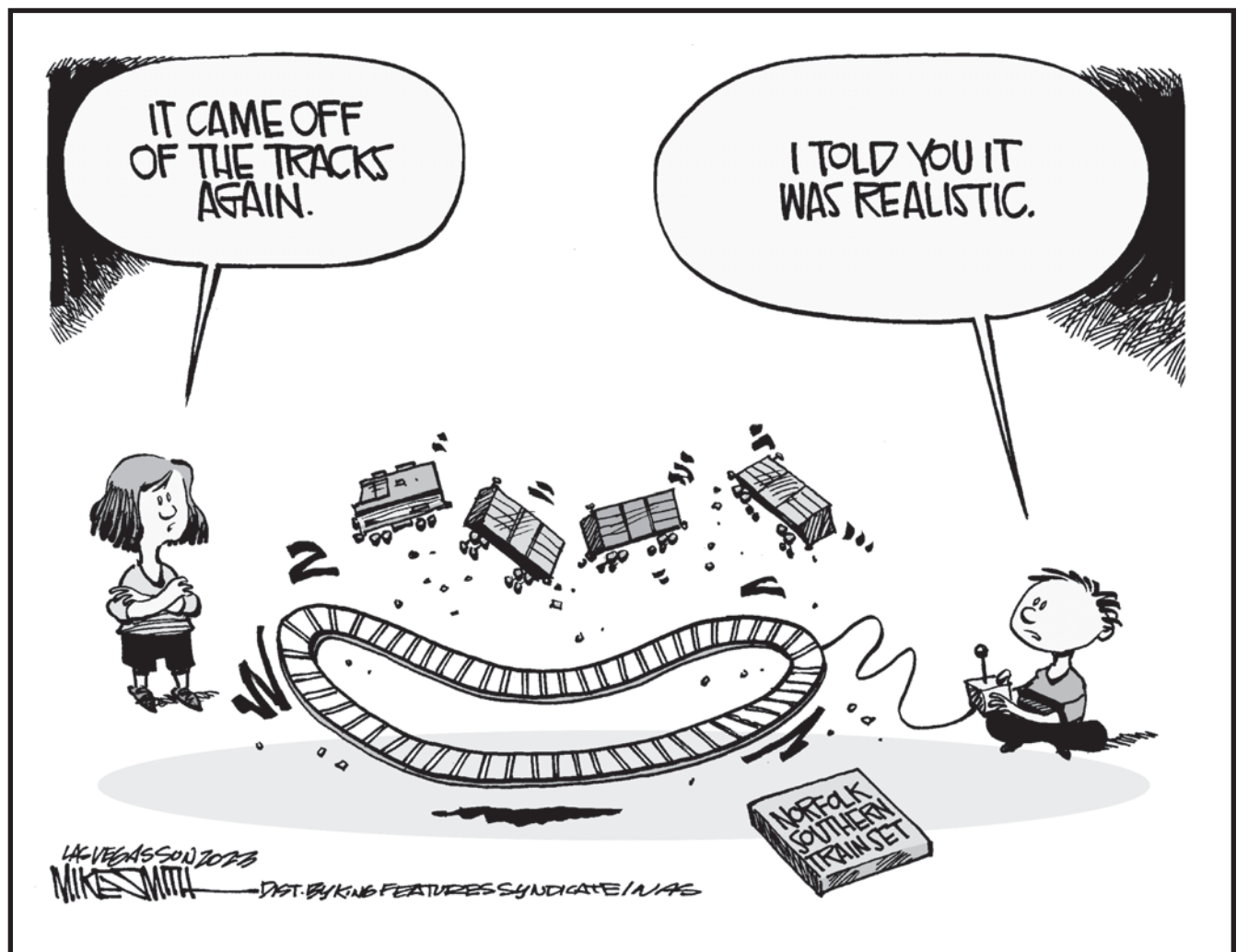
It's remarkable in itself that U.N. members—who rarely agree on anything—have been able to reach a framework for protecting the oceans from further man-made harm. The oceanic areas mapped out for protection belong to no country. That means no country has an automatic right to exploit marine life or mineral riches beneath the sea floor. Conversely, no nation has an automatic right to tell any other nations what they may or may not do in an area where no nation holds jurisdiction. That's why the only way to protect the oceans is for all nations to agree that this is necessary for the good of the world.

U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry, fresh from an international meeting in Panama, stated early this month that a series of meetings that began in 2014 have culminated in the current draft agreement, in which countries around the world have committed to abide by 1,800 specific measures carrying a price tag of more than \$100 billion to address global climate change, sustainable fisheries, maritime security, marine pollution and areas where species survival is under threat.

Without regulation, industrial fishing fleets from countries like China fan out thousands of miles from their own shores to catch, process and package massive quantities of marine life for consumer markets. They are fishing the oceans to death.

When careless people throw plastic bottles into a gutter or stream, or when the streets flood and sweep away all the scattered litter, or when a massive tsunami or hurricane washes away entire coastal towns—that debris makes its way into the oceans. Literal floating islands of debris—plastic, wood, furniture, car parts and insulation foam—have formed on ocean surfaces, with one garbage patch in the Pacific reported to be the size of the state of Texas. They block off sunlight and choke off life for the creatures below.

The agreements reached in Panama set a low bar: Conserving only 30% of the ocean by 2030. And all that is conditional on an international treaty, which could take years more to negotiate and more years to win legislative ratification. And, as Americans learned with the Paris Climate Accord, all it takes is one change of U.S. administration to scuttle everything. So, even at 30%, this is by no means a slam-dunk.

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See **DEVELOPING** on Page 9

Why I like public schools and, for that matter, the Post Office

I like public schools for the same reason that William Faulkner hated the Post Office.

Before Faulkner became the great Southern novelist, he hired on as the postmaster at the University of Mississippi. By all accounts he was an indifferent postmaster, opening the P.O. when he felt like it and never letting the U.S. mail interfere with his hunting and golf. Students complained that the P.O. motto under Faulkner's regime should be "Never put the mail up on time."

After two years Faulkner and the Postal Service had had enough of each other. In a fit of wounded dignity, Faulkner resigned. He said that as long as he lived in a capitalist society, he expected to have his life "influenced by the demands of moneyed people."

"But," he sniffed, "I will be damned if I propose to be at the beck and call of every itinerant scoundrel who has two cents to invest in a postage stamp."

But that's what I like about the Post Office. Can we think of any American institution that better serves egalitarianism and democracy than the P.O.? What could be more American than our early determination—Ben Franklin was the first postmaster general—to provide the same quality service for the same low price to all Americans, regardless of their economic status?

Public schools demonstrate this same commitment to "the general welfare," our willingness to provide every citizen with the same benefits of being an American. Few of our institutions have done more to promote equality of opportunity and the overall well-being of everyone in our society than public schools. At least, ideally.

The word "ideally" is important here since we haven't always managed to provide the same services and facilities to all public school students. In fact, in many places public schools are largely funded by property taxes, and they reflect the economic status—and, often, the race—of their communities. Indeed, many public schools reflect the de facto segregation of their neighborhoods.

But public schools are too good an idea to give up on just because we've never been able to perfect them. We've always known how to produce good public schools, and we've regularly done so for much of our society. I had an excellent public school education; there's a decent chance you did, too.

By **JOHN M. CRISP**
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.



This is why rewarding the political right's relentless effort to defund public schools by channeling taxpayer funds into the coffers of private schools is such a bad idea. The scheme is characterized by various euphemisms—school choice, vouchers, opportunity scholarships—but the effect is the same: the reduction of the capacity to provide a quality public education for all students.

Of course, the primary responsibility for their children's education resides with parents, and for the most part they have the right to educate them as they see fit, including in private schools. But the case for doing so at taxpayer expense is a weak one.

Unlike public schools, which, like the Post Office, are a unifying force in our society, the effect of private schools is often divisive. At best they create a sense of separation—an "us" versus "them" mentality—usually based on economic class, test scores, sectarian religious beliefs and, all too often, race. Taxpayer money should be spent to unify society, not divide it.

The case for vouchers relies heavily on the idea that public schools are a disastrous failure. It's far beyond the scope of this column to make the affirmative case for public schools' effectiveness—or for the Post Office's—but it's worth remembering that the argument for diverting taxpayer money for private purposes is deeply grounded in the dubious conservative assertion that government is essentially bad and in the right's commitment to keeping government of any sort as small and ineffective as possible.

The charge that public schools—and the Post Office—are inefficient and ineffective is an insidious canard that reflects a political agenda rather than facts. And while no institution is perfect, our commitment to the unifying force of public schools should be maintained and supported, rather than defunded.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What if we actually were ‘tough on crime’ instead of ‘tough on people’?

We have one of the highest incarceration rates in the world. One of the largest police forces. We have more guns than people. And yet, Americans are still scared.

Crime. Again.

This is not a rant about defunding the police or freeing people who have broken serious laws. This is about being “tough on crime,” which Americans are not. We just like to say that we are. But history shows we’re tough only on criminals.

That’s why the prison population has increased so much in the 50 years since President Nixon established the Drug Enforcement Administration and turned the short-lived war on poverty into his disingenuous war on drugs. From Nixon to Reagan to Clinton and then-Sen. Joe Biden—each one introducing policies billed as being “tough on crime” but in retrospect placing us on an unsustainable path of imprisonment that’s costing taxpayers nearly \$300 billion a year.

“Tough on crime” is the legislative equivalent of the junk drawer in the kitchen. You know, the one that houses all the stuff we don’t know what to do with.

Have a lock with no key? Toss it in the junk drawer.

Christmas cards from people you kind of remember? Junk drawer. One chopstick? Toss it in. You’ll find the other one eventually.

We arrest the homeless for not having a place to sleep. We’ve arrested parents for enrolling their children in better schools. Last year Texas Public Radio reported that many Texans are too poor to afford a lawyer but make too much to be eligible to for a court-

appointed one. What exactly are these people to do? Perhaps more important, what are we going to do?

Elected officials speak of being tough on crime, but watch their actions: Those folks introduce bills more focused on police than on teachers. Even though we know which investments are actually tough on crime, because we’ve got the data about the relationships among crime, education and poverty.

Right now, more than 50% of American households are dipping into their savings to survive. Ninety percent of us are splitting less than a third of the country’s wealth. While mulling those numbers over, here’s one more: An analysis by the Prison Policy Initiative found that before their arrest, the median income of incarcerated people was 41% less than their peers’. Last year nearly 50% of the country didn’t have \$500 cash on hand for emergencies. And we wonder why our prisons are filled with people who can’t make bail.

We’re not “tough on crime.” We’re tough on people who are vulnerable. Usually poor. Disproportionately Black and brown. Voiceless. We tell ourselves we’re tough on crime, but there are cities that have outlawed giving food to homeless people. How exactly are we defining “crime” if that’s an infraction?

That’s definitely not the “crime” that voters are afraid of. But I get it. The gun violence and brazen robberies are scary. I have an aversion to sitting with my back to doors. Been that way my whole life, a byproduct of growing up in a crime-riddled area in the 1980s. Back then, crack was the drug destroying lives. Before that it was heroin. Today it’s opioids.

By LZ GRANDERSON

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



And just as we did in the ‘70s and ‘80s, we’re having a national conversation about being tough on crime through a lens that ignores the policies that foster crime and, with it, mass incarceration.

To really be tough on crime would require us to restructure corporate taxation to correct the growing wealth gap and save the shrinking middle class.

To be tough on crime would be to treat the lack of school counselors and modern technology in the classroom as an emergency.

To be tough on crime would be to recognize that it’s no accident our prisons are disproportionately filled with our poor and most vulnerable. That was the design.

But being truly tough on crime would take work. And compassion. Maybe even bipartisanship instead of grandstanding.

So we’re unlikely to get past “tough on crime” anytime soon.

Book banning: A red flag behavior

“Just the facts, ma’am,” was the infamous introductory phrase Sgt. Joe Friday would use when interrogating a witness in the whodunit TV series “Dragnet.” Jack Webb played Sgt. Friday during “Dragnet’s” 1951-1959 lifespan.

“Dragnet’s” civil servant show often dealt with complex social issues. Let’s apply Sgt. Friday’s flat and concise “just the facts, ma’am” line to the current book banning craze before offering an opinion.

Fact no. 1: According to Pen America, 2,532 books were banned across 32 states – including all red states -- during the 2021-2022 school year.

Fact no. 2: Over 50 major groups with affiliate groups exceeding 300 are advocates for banning books in school districts and public libraries.

Fact no. 3: Book banning groups, like Moms for Liberty, Parents Defending Education and No Left Turn in Education are linked to Republican mega-donor Charles Koch and GOP donor Leonard Lee, a former VP of the Koch-funded Federalist Society (Adam Gabbatt, *The Guardian*, Jan. 24, 2022).

Fact no. 4: Under Adolf Hitler’s dictatorial orders, more than 4,000 books were banned and burned in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945.

Fact no. 5: A February 2022 CNN Poll found only 12% of Americans believe parents should control which library books are on the shelves.

Fact no. 6: A CBS News/YouGov survey of Americans found: A) 83% don’t want books banned that criticize U.S. history, B)

85% don’t want books banned that offer different political ideas, C) 87% don’t want books banned that depict slavery and D) 87% don’t want books banned that discuss race.

Fact no. 7: A plethora of research reveals a LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum promotes a positive school environment and student well-being.

Fact no. 8: The predominant advocates of the Nazi-like book banning conspiracy are Republican legislators and GOP governors from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

Fact no. 9: The children predominantly affected by the book banning craze are Gen Z (ages 10-26). Pew Research Center notes “Gen Z is more racially and ethnically diverse than previous generations.” Gen Z individuals are independent learners who value diversity and inclusive cultures.

Pat Scales, author of “Scales on Censorship” (2007) – an ardent First Amendment advocate – notes outright censorship is only one aspect of book banning. Shelving books by keeping them out of readers’ hands is about control, a far-right, Nazi, fascism, authoritarian and totalitarian ideology tactic.

Scales notes “intellectual freedom is about respect.” It appears book banning advocates don’t respect the intellectual freedom and First Amendment rights of Gen Z students who want to become knowledgeable about history and 21st century reality.

For parents who don’t want their child to learn about this diverse world, please do your utmost to shelter your child. First

By STEVE CORBIN

The Fulcrum

Steve Corbin is Professor Emeritus of Marketing at the University of Northern Iowa.



of all, take your child out of school as a certified teacher or peer student may expose your child to knowledge that may be offensive to you.

Next, television, radio, social media and newspapers should become taboo in your household. Of course, all books and the internet will be off limits.

For goodness sake, don’t let your child play outside as they may observe or hear something that is offensive to you. Don’t permit your child to hold a part-time or – Lord be – a full-time job as they may interact with a non-homogenized person.

Growing up and adulthood is dangerous to one’s health. Protect your child and hope that someday s/he will live alone on a small planet.

Politicians’ book banning censorship actions are all about controlling children under the age of consent from the real world, a red flag behavior. Book banners don’t value democracy, they crave authoritarian rule.

DEVELOPING

From Page 8

When did libraries become the bad guys?

Hillsborough County, Florida’s fast-growing suburbs in the south and east face many problems. A rogue library system isn’t among them. We’re not sure where Michael Owen, a newly-elected Republican county commissioner, is going with this campaign. But no one should want Hillsborough to reprise an ugly chapter by entangling itself anew in America’s culture wars.

Owen said last week that he wants parents to know what their kids are reading at the public library. He wants to give parents the opportunity to prevent their youngsters from accessing material in the adults section and from checking out “controversial books dealing with sexuality.” Parents, he said, are entitled to “trust their children are not getting fed garbage, basically.” He also wants the county’s

30-branch library system to drop its affiliation with the American Library Association, saying the nonprofit “has clearly gone radical.”

To parents who want to be more involved with their child, we say more power to you. Many library patrons would be thrilled to see more parents accompanying children to the library. But does Owen have any evidence that Hillsborough libraries are feeding “garbage” to children? Or is that just a drive-by smear meant to create a boogeyman and justify a political talking point?

Owen traces his criticism of the national library association to a tweet from the group’s incoming president, who described herself as a Marxist after she won the post last year. How that justifies leaving a national organization that promotes literacy, dates to 1876 and boasts nearly 50,000 members is anybody’s guess.

At a time when government, civic institutions and even facts themselves have come under withering partisan attack, our libraries have become more important than ever. Their solemn place as safe spaces for truth and learning help nurture our kids, making for stronger citizens, stronger families and stronger communities. There are few better places for a child to spend time, and fewer

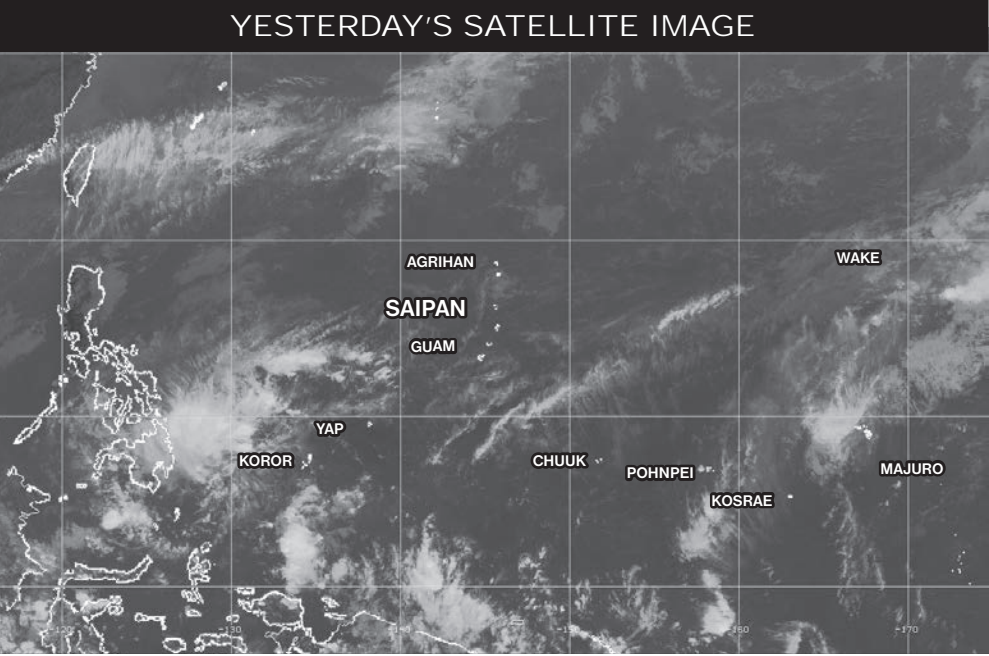
worse places to make a political scapegoat.

Owen asked the staff to report back on the county’s status as a member of the American Library Association and the impacts of withdrawing from the group. He also asked for a report on whether minors can check out materials from the library’s adults section and whether parents can have an opt-out provision barring a child’s access to adult materials.

We’ll see how this plays out, but it’s a slippery slope when politicians start questioning the content of libraries and access to them. It revives memories from the dark days when another Republican commissioner from east Hillsborough raised concerns in 2005 over a gay pride display at a regional library, sparking years of bitterness in this community, and damaging the image and functioning of county government. Returning to those times is not anything anyone needs.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 8:54 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite this morning shows scattered showers approaching the islands of Tinian and Saipan, with isolated showers likely for Guam and Rota. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of an east-northeast trade-wind swell and a small north swell with wind waves mixed in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:24 AM	11:47 AM	-
Thursday	1:27 AM	12:48 PM	-
Friday	2:29 AM	1:53 PM	-
Saturday	3:27 AM	2:58 PM	-
Sunday	4:21 AM	4:03 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 60°	
Beijing	Sunny	55° / 28°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74° / 67°	
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	81° / 72°	
London	Cloudy	48° / 42°	
Los Angeles	Rain	59° / 55°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 76°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	54° / 35°	
Miami	Cloudy	82° / 75°	
New York	Rain/Snow/Wind	40° / 34°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	67° / 49°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	47° / 42°	
Busan	Showers	65° / 47°	
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	60° / 44°	
Salem	Sunny	65° / 45°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 40°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	56° / 29°	
Tokyo	Sunny	63° / 47°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy/Wind	45° / 31°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:28 AM	High Tide	1.50	
7:03 AM	Low Tide	1.26	
12:01 PM	High Tide	1.65	
8:04 PM	Low Tide	-0.14	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun				
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
				3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Graf is new GM of Hyatt Regency Saipan

Hyatt Regency Saipan opened its doors to Simon Graf who stepped in as the new general manager of the resort last Feb. 15.

Graf, a native Berliner, has been with Hyatt for over 20 years, including stints in Germany, China, South Korea, and Vietnam.

He is now ready to take on his role here at Micro Beach with passion on all levels to lead the hotel as the remaining number one in the hospitality landscape along the CNMI.

Graf, considered a “Hyatt home-grown” has dedicated his life toward the hotel industry, particularly at five different Hyatt brands. He is experienced and knowledgeable of every function related to the operation like the back of his hand. After graduating with a degree in Hotel Management from Hotelfachschule Berlin, Graf joined the Hyatt family as a night cashier at Grand Hyatt Berlin in 2002.

For 17 years, Graf’s hotel career kept evolving as he took part in front office, rooms and management roles at Grand Hyatt Berlin, Hyatt Regency Hangzhou, Andaz Xintiandi Shanghai, Park Hyatt Sanya Sunny Bay Resort, and Grand Hyatt Incheon.

His first assignment as a general manager was at Nam

Nghi Phu Quoc, Part of The Unbound Collection by Hyatt in 2019. His talent wasn’t just confined there as Graf worked on multiple projects alongside the Hyatt Hub in Hong Kong, one of which he was involved in the roll-out of Asia’s hygiene standards. He was also instrumental in the creation of in-house standards such as the “Rooms Top 20” and “Rooms Top 20 Hygiene” fundamentals and other regional guiding disciplines.

In 2021, he was named general manager of the prestigious Park Hyatt Busan in South Korea, also known as Asia’s largest Park Hyatt hotel by guest room count. During his free time, Graf enjoys strolling through cities and exploring modern art galleries and design museums whenever possible.

“I’ve been watching on repeat the show ‘Pretend It’s a City’ a show with Fran Lebowitz and Martin Scorsese. Her stories make me laugh every time,” he said.

The beginning of 2023 proves to be exciting for Graf as he anchors himself in the CNMI and starts the wheels moving with the hotel’s renovation plans in tow. “I am looking forward to being a part of the legendary Hyatt Regency Saipan. It will be a key moment in the resort’s history as plans are being put together for a full renovation,” he said. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Simon Graf took the helm as general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan beginning last Feb. 15.

Russia: 60-day extension of wartime grain deal acceptable

GENEVA (AP)—A Russian delegation at talks with senior U.N. officials said Monday that Moscow is ready to accept an extension to a grain export deal that has helped bring down global food prices amid the war in Ukraine—but only for 60 days as the Kremlin holds out for changes to how the arrangement is working.

The United Nations said it “notes” the Russian announcement and reaffirmed its support for the agreement struck in July as “part of the global response to the most severe cost-of-living crisis in a generation.”

The U.N. and Turkey brokered the deal between the warring countries that allows Ukraine—one of the world’s key breadbaskets—to ship food and fertilizer from three of its Black Sea ports.

The 120-day agreement was renewed last November. That extension expires on Saturday, and another 120-day extension

was on the table.

Ukraine charged that the Russian proposal to extend it only for 60 days goes against the deal, although the language of the agreement allows the parties to roll it over or “modify” it—as Russia did Monday.

The noncommittal U.N. response betrayed the world body’s inability to force hands. Russia can largely do what it wants to abide by or reject the deal, leaving the issue dangling for countries in the developing world, which benefit most.

“The U.N. Secretary-General has confirmed that the U.N. will do everything possible to preserve the integrity of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and ensure its continuity,” a U.N. statement said. It stressed that the deal had allowed the export of 24 million tons of grain and more than 1,600 trips by vessels through the Black Sea—with more than half the exports destined for developing countries.

Government races to reassure US that banking system is safe

NEW YORK (AP)—Depositors withdrew savings and investors broadly sold off bank shares Monday as the federal government raced to reassure Americans that the banking system was secure after two bank failures fed fears that more financial institutions could fall.

President Joe Biden insisted that the system was safe after the second- and third-largest bank failures in the nation’s history happened in the span of 48 hours. In response to the crisis, regulators guaranteed all deposits at the two banks and created a program that effectively threw a lifeline to other banks to shield them from a run on deposits.

“Your deposits will be there when you need them,” Biden told the public, seeking to project calm. He also said the banking executives responsible for the failures would be held accountable.

In other developments, the Federal Reserve announced that it would reassess its supervision of Silicon Valley Bank.

“We need to have humility and conduct a careful and thorough review of how we supervised and regulated this firm, and what we should learn from this experience,” said Michael Barr, the Fed’s vice chair for supervision, who will lead the effort.

Regulators closed the bank Friday after depositors rushed to withdraw their funds all at once. The only larger failure in U.S. banking history was the 2008 collapse of Washington Mutual. New York-based Signature Bank was seized by regulators late Sunday in third-largest failure in the U.S.

In both cases, the government agreed to cover deposits, even those that exceeded the federally insured limit of \$250,000.

Despite the message from the White House, investors broadly dumped shares in bank stocks. Shares of First Republic Bank closed down more than 60% even after the bank said it was taking emergency funding from the Federal Reserve and additional money from JPMor-

gan Chase.

Shares in KeyCorp and Comerica plunged by nearly a third. The stock of well-known franchises such as Charles Schwab, Fifth Third Bank, Truist and Huntington Bancshares all dropped by double digits.

The selloff happened in part because the country woke up to a new banking system and investors had to find the winners and losers, banking experts said.

There was no guarantee that the anxiety would not spread. Customers at other banks with deposits over the \$250,000 limit remained at risk of losing access to their money for a time.

Just because the government covered for Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank “doesn’t mean they are going to cover for these smaller banks,” said Chris Caulfield, a senior partner at West Monroe.

In Asia, direct exposure to the risks from the U.S. failures seemed slim, at least so far. Hirokazu Matsuno, the Japanese government

spokesman, told reporters a major ripple effect to the Japanese financial system was unlikely. But fears sent regional benchmarks lower in morning trading.

Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 dropped 1.7%, extending losses from the day before. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 dipped 2.1%, and South Korea’s Kospi fell 0.9%. The Shanghai Composite index lost 0.7%, while Hong Kong’s Hang Seng was down 1%.

Wesley Zheng, co-founder and CEO of Posh Robotics, which is working to develop sustainable batteries, said he will move \$4 million from Silicon Valley Bank to JPMorgan Chase.

“No more small banks. We have so many other things we’re working on, we don’t want to be worried about figuring out the risk management of the banks we’re working with,” he said.

Further, the government’s actions suggested it would stand behind all deposits if doing so prevents damage to the broader economy.

Nation

Biden admin lets Ukrainians who fled war stay in US

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration is allowing thousands of Ukrainians who fled their homeland when Russia invaded a year ago to stay in the United States longer, the administration said Monday. The decision provides relief to Ukrainians whose one-year authorization to remain in the U.S. was set to expire soon.

The Homeland Security Department said the extension is for certain Ukrainian nationals and their immediate family members who were let into the U.S. before the Uniting for Ukraine program started.

Ukrainians who came in under the Uniting for Ukraine program generally got two years of humanitarian “parole” in the U.S. whereas those who arrived before them generally got permission to stay only for one year. Resettlement agencies have estimated that there are about 20,000 Ukrainians in the one-year group.

Thousands of Ukrainians came to America last year fleeing the war.

The U.S. government used a program called humanitarian parole to admit them into the country. That program is a way to allow people from other countries to enter the United States on an emergency basis due to an urgent humanitarian situation. But it is usually for a finite amount of time, like a year or two years, and must be renewed for people to stay longer.

In recent years, humanitarian parole has been employed as a quick fix to deal with the fallout



Ukrainian refugees wait in a gymnasium Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Tijuana, Mexico. The Biden administration is allowing thousands of Ukrainians who fled their homeland when Russia invaded a year ago to stay in the United States longer.

from the many world crises that have occurred as the U.S. refugee system that was dismantled by the previous administration was being built back up.

Now numerous groups are seeing their permission to remain in the United States expiring in coming months, including tens of thousands of Afghans.

That has led to intense anxiety for thousands of people who fled war in their homeland and don't know whether they'll be kicked out of the U.S. when their humanitarian parole sta-

tus expires. The uncertainty can also be difficult for the businesses that employ them and need to make sure their employees are properly authorized to remain in the country.

Ukraine and immigration have both been hot button topics among Republican politicians who aren't enthusiastic about continuing aid to the war and have accused the Biden administration of not doing enough to control migration at the southern border. But even in that toxic political environ-

ment, there's been little movement to force Ukrainians to return home, reflecting widespread acceptance that it's still too dangerous for them there.

The Homeland Security De-

partment said the announcement specifically refers to Ukrainians who came into the U.S. on humanitarian parole status from February 24, 2022 through April 25, 2022. They

do not need to file any paperwork with the government to get the extension. The department will review cases of Ukrainians that fall in this category over the next four weeks to vet them for the extension, starting with those who came to the U.S. the earliest.

Many groups that work with people who come to the U.S. after being forcibly displaced from their countries had been advocating for the extension. In a statement the head of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Krish O'Mara Vignarajah said the extension would provide relief to thousands of anxious Ukrainians.

“For this earliest-arrived group of Ukrainians, the continued legal right to live, work, and access resettlement assistance in the U.S. is absolutely crucial to their well-being,” she said. The organization also called on the administration in the future to not wait until so close to the deadline to extend “critical humanitarian protections,” and noted that many of the thousands of Afghans who came into the country on humanitarian parole will start seeing their protections expire this summer.

Flood problems grow as new storm moves into California

WATSONVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Crews rushed to repair a levee break on a storm-swollen river in California's central coast as yet another atmospheric river arrived Monday with the potential to wallop the state's swamped farmland and agricultural communities.

The Pajaro River's first levee rupture grew to at least 400 feet (120 meters) since it failed late Friday, officials said. More than 8,500 people were forced to evacuate, and about 50 people had to be rescued as the water rose that night.

Still, some stayed behind in Pajaro, an unincorporated community that's known for its strawberry crops and is now mostly flooded. The largely Latino farmworker community there is already struggling to find food with so many roads and businesses closed in the storm's aftermath.

“Some people have nowhere to go and maybe that's why there's still peo-

ple around,” resident Jorbelit Rincon said Monday. “Pretty much they don't know where to go and don't have money to provide for themselves.”

A second breach opened up another 100 feet (30.48 meters) of the levee closer to the Pacific coast, providing a “relief valve” for the floodwaters to recede near the mouth of the river, officials said Monday during a news conference.

Built in the late 1940s to provide flood protection, the levee has been a known risk for decades and had several breaches in the 1990s. Emergency repairs to a section of the berm were undertaken in January. A \$400 million rebuild is set to begin in the next few years.

Forecasters warned of more flooding, wind damage and potential power outages from the new atmospheric river that came ashore Monday evening in northern and central parts of the state and was expected to move south over several days.

California has been pummeled this winter by 10 atmospheric rivers, which are long, narrow plumes of moisture that turn into rain and snow when they make landfall.

Along the Southern California coast, evacuation orders were scheduled to take effect at 8 a.m. Tuesday in Santa Barbara County for several areas that were burned by wildfires in recent years. Burned soil can be water-repellent, increasing the risk of flash floods and flows of debris such as downed trees, according to the National Weather Service.

Water from the newest storm will likely go over the Pajaro River's levee — but crews were working to make sure the rupture doesn't get any larger, said Shaunna Murray of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. Over the weekend, crews had to build access roads to get to the site of the breach, and bring in rocks and boulders to plug the gap.

ACROSS THE NATION

Agents stop crowd at Texas border crossing amid asylum woes

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A large group of migrants in Mexico who were poised to barge into the U.S. over the weekend were blocked from crossing a bridge leading from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to El Paso, Texas, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman said. The migrants were “posing a potential threat to make a mass entry,” and physical barriers were put up to restrict their entry at the Paso Del Norte International Bridge on Sunday afternoon, spokesman Roger Maier said in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday. Barricades also were used in El Paso for a short time Sunday afternoon at other border crossings including the Bridge of Americas and the Stanton-Lerdo bridge, Maier said. Video of the scene at the Paso Del Norte bridge on Sunday showed hundreds of migrants brush past Mexican National Guard officers on the Mexican side, some carrying children on their shoulders. Many appeared to be Venezuelan, by their accents.

McConnell released from hospital, headed to inpatient rehab

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell was released from the hospital Monday after treatment for a concussion and will continue to recover in an inpatient rehabilitation facility, a spokesman said. McConnell's office said his doctors discovered over the weekend that he had also suffered a “minor rib fracture” after he tripped and fell at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in Washington on Wednesday evening.

“Leader McConnell's concussion recovery is proceeding well and the Leader was discharged from the hospital today,” McConnell spokesman David Popp said in a statement. “At the advice of his physician, the next step will be a period of physical therapy at an inpatient rehabilitation facility before he returns home.” The office did not give any additional detail on his condition or say how long McConnell will be out. Concussions can be serious injuries and take time for recovery, and even a single incident of concussion can limit a person's abilities as they recover. It is unclear how his extended absence will affect Senate proceedings.

Alaska oil project approval adds yet another climate concern

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—The Biden administration's approval of a massive oil development in northern Alaska commits the U.S. to yet another decadeslong crude project even as scientists urgently warn that only a halt to more fossil fuel emissions can stem climate change. ConocoPhillips' Willow project would produce 180,000 barrels of oil a day at its peak, and using that crude would result in at least 263 million tons (239 million metric tons) of greenhouse gas emissions over 30 years. Demand for oil isn't dropping as the planet heats, and a bitter political dispute over the project, which was approved Monday, has underscored the Democratic administration's struggle to balance economic pressures against pledges to curb fossil fuels. The proposal in the remote region north of the Arctic Circle also highlights the paradox facing the U.S. and other nations: The world's transition to clean energy lags the realities of an economy still largely driven by oil consumption.

Asia

Australia: Nuclear submarines needed to counter militarization

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's defense minister said Tuesday a deal to buy nuclear-powered attack submarines from the United States was necessary to counter the biggest conventional military buildup in the region since World War II.

Australian officials said the deal will cost up to \$245 billion over the next three decades and create 20,000 jobs. It comes at a time that China is rapidly building up its own military.

Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles said it had made a huge diplomatic effort for months ahead of Monday's announcement of the deal, including making more than 60 calls to regional and world leaders. Australia had even offered to keep China in the loop, he said.

"We offered a briefing. I have not participated in a briefing with China," Marles said.

Asked by reporters if China had rejected the briefing or responded at all, Marles replied: "I'm not aware of that response."

Without specifically mentioning China, Marles said Australia needed to respond to the military buildup in the Pacific.

"A failure to do so would

see us be condemned by history," he said.

China has said the deal poses serious nuclear proliferation risks and stimulates the arms race.

"We urge the U.S., Britain and Australia to abandon the Cold War mentality and zero-sum game, faithfully fulfill their international obligations and do more to contribute to regional peace and stability," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said during a daily briefing Thursday.

Marles said Australia intended to increase its military capabilities and to spend more on defense in the future, something it wanted to be transparent about.

"You know, our concern about other military build-ups is that they happen in a manner which is opaque, and where neighbors are left uneasy as to why it is occurring," he said. "That is why we have gone to such an effort to make clear exactly why we are taking the steps that we're taking."

U.S. President Joe Biden announced the deal in San Diego along with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and British Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak. Albanese said the agreement "represents the biggest single investment in Australia's defense capability in all of our history."

Australia is buying three, and possibly up to five, Virginia-class boats as part of deal. Under the so-called AUKUS partnership, a future generation of submarines will be built in Britain and in Australia with U.S. technology and support.

Australia estimates the deal will cost it between 268 billion and 368 billion Australian dollars (\$178-\$245 billion).

Biden emphasized the ships would not carry nuclear weapons of any kind. Albanese has said he doesn't think the deal will sour its relationship with China, which he noted had improved in recent months.

The secretly brokered AUKUS deal included the Australian government's cancellation of a \$66 billion contract for a French-built fleet of conventional submarines, which sparked a diplomatic row within the Western alliance that took months to mend.

Activists urge UN Security Council to refer Myanmar to court

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Human rights activists urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to refer Myanmar's military rulers to the International Criminal Court and urged neighboring Southeast Asian countries to support the opposition pro-democracy movement.

The leaders of two women's rights organizations spoke to reporters ahead of a closed council meeting on Myanmar. Members heard briefings by U.N. special envoy for Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer and Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, whose country chairs the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

May Sabe Phyu, director of the Gender Equality Network, a coalition of organizations promoting women's rights in Myanmar, accused Myanmar's military of conducting "a terror campaign" and committing "heinous acts" that constituted crimes against humanity. She said the Security Council should refer the junta's actions to the International Criminal Court for prosecution.

Myanmar's military has long been accused of human rights violations, most notably during a brutal 2017 counter-insurgency campaign against Rohingya Muslims in the western state of Rakhine. International courts are considering whether that crackdown was genocide.

In 2021, the military ousted Myanmar's elected civilian government, then moved to violently suppress public opposition to the takeover. Some experts now consider the situation in Myanmar to be a civil war in which the army has conducting major offensives against widespread armed resistance.

ASEAN adopted a five-step consensus on restoring peace in April 2021 to which Myanmar agreed but has not implemented, leading to Myanmar's exclusion from some top-level ASEAN meetings since then.

The Security Council approved its first-ever resolution on Myanmar in December, demanding an immediate end to violence, urging its military rulers to release all "arbitrarily detained" prison-

ers including ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and to restore democratic institutions. It also reiterated a call for dialogue and reconciliation and urged all sides "to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law."

The activists called for an arms embargo, for the U.N. special envoy to have public engagements with pro-democracy actors, and for accountability for crimes perpetrated by the military.

Phyu, who left Myanmar after the takeover and is now based in the United States, asked the Security Council to pressure Myanmar's neighbors not to support the government but to publicly support democratic forces, including the National Unity Government, which she said has the support of the people of Myanmar.

And she criticized U.N. envoy Heyzer for meeting Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing but not meeting publicly with pro-democracy groups including the National Unity Government, which operates underground and calls itself the country's legitimate government.

World

'Quake aid was slow to reach Syria'



AP

Brazilian Paulo Pinheiro, Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, talks to the media during a press conference, before presenting the last report by the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic on the human rights situation in Syria at the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, March 13, 2023.

GENEVA (AP)—The international community and the Syrian government did not act quickly enough last month to help people in need in the rebel-held northwest after a deadly earthquake hit Turkey and conflict-ravaged Syria, a U.N.-backed commission said Monday.

The Feb. 6 magnitude 7.8 earthquake and strong aftershocks that ravaged southern Turkey and northwestern Syria killed more than 50,000 people, including over 6,000 in

Syria.

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria said there should be an investigation into why it took a week to open border crossings for aid to flow. It added that war-torn Syria "now needs a comprehensive ceasefire that is fully respected" for civilians, including aid workers, to be safe.

The commission also said there have been new attacks in Syria, including a reported Israeli airstrike last week on

the international airport of the northern city of Aleppo putting it out of service for three days. The airport has been a main point for aid flowing into Syria and flights were diverted to two other airports when it was closed.

The commission is made up of outside, independent experts who have been working under a mandate from the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council since nearly the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011.

It took a week for the U.N. and the government of Syria's President Bashar Assad to agree on opening two more border crossings into the rebel-held region bordering Turkey as many people were still under the rubble.

"Since the earthquake, we have seen many acts to help victims by the Syrians themselves," commission member Paulo Pinheiro said during a news conference in Geneva. He added that "we also witnessed a complete failure by the government and the international community including the United Nations to rapidly direct urgent lifesaving aid for northwest Syria."

JOINT FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

IVAN & JUANITA PROPST

In remembrance of the First Year Death Anniversary of our beloved parents, we invite you to join us in prayer and daily Mass of Intention at San Antonio Catholic Church.

March 14 - 21 at 6PM
March 19 (Sunday) and March 22 (Wednesday) at 7AM

If you are unable to attend, your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

ED PROPST, GLORIA PEREZ, MARIA GERSONDE AND FAMILY

Life & Style

Yeoh, Fraser feel the love at Vanity Fair post-Oscars party

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Michelle Yeoh and Angela Bassett locked in a long embrace, whispering and laughing with glee as nearly every phone in the vicinity came out to take photos.

Vanity Fair's annual post-Oscars party was full of such moments of warmth and joy as Sunday night led into Monday morning after a drama-free Academy Awards, with none of the head-shaking heaviness that hung over last year's post-slap edition.

Yeoh, whose best actress Oscar was one of seven on a dominant night for "Everything Everywhere All at Once," had just walked into the party and was swarmed by well-wishers and selfie-seekers before seeing Bassett, who hadn't looked happy when she lost best supporting actress to Yeoh's castmate Jamie Lee Curtis but was all smiles here.

Yeoh later grasped her Oscar as she rocked back and forth to the Human League's "Don't You Want Me" at the edge of the dance floor, though it was hard to do much dancing with all the attention she was getting.

Brendan Fraser got the same treatment when he walked in holding his best actor Oscar for "The Whale" shortly before Yeoh, making his way very slowly across the room amid constant congratulations.

Half of the directing duo behind "Everything Everywhere All at Once," Daniel Scheinert, with none of the three Oscars he won Sunday night nor his partner Daniel Kwan



Ke Huy Quan, from left, Michelle Yeoh, Brendan Fraser and Jamie Lee Curtis pose with their awards in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

in sight, stood outside and ate an In-N-Out burger, the party's traditional meal, as he bopped up and down to House of Pain's "Jump Around."

"Finally getting some dinner," Scheinert said as a long night, and an even longer awards season, neared its end. "This is nice."

The champagne-soaked affair, which begins as a viewing party for 100 people and grows into the night's most sought-after invitation, is thrown in a space that connects the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts with Beverly Hills

City Hall and is hosted by Vanity Fair editor Radhika Jones.

It's always also full of far-less-famous folks holding Oscars, winners in categories including best documentary short, who get an automatic invite with their statuette.

Oscar night is just beginning for many stars once the ceremony itself ends, and the first stop is always the Governors Ball, just an escalator ride up from the Dolby Theatre in the Ovation Hollywood complex.

Winners go with one main objective: getting their Oscars engraved with their

names, which this year was in plain sight of the party. Others take the chance to get a bite to eat of the Wolfgang Puck-prepared bites. Harrison Ford even made a quick loop around the room.

Here, too, the mood couldn't have been more different from the year prior, when the slap cast a pallor on the celebration. This time around, the winners could simply focus on their own moment.

"Navalny" director Daniel Roher took his newly personalized best documentary feature Oscar with him to wait in line

for prime rib. Sarah Polley followed, bounding her way up the stairs with her adapted screenplay Oscar in hand.

It was relatively calm until Curtis made her way to the platform and photographers clamored to snap pictures.

When Ke Huy Quan finally appeared to get his best supporting actor statuette personalized, he hammed it up for the cameras, pumping his fist and pointing toward the word "Oscars" emblazoned on the screen above him.

"The Whale" playwright and screenwriter Samuel D.

Hunter was still processing the fact that Fraser not only won, but name-checked him in his acceptance speech.

"We set our expectations low, so it was incredible," Hunter said. His husband standing at his side added, "He was totally crying."

Oscars host Jimmy Kimmel meanwhile was waylaid outside of the main party, chatting with "Top Gun: Maverick" director Joseph Kosinski and "The Whale" director Darren Aronofsky. Judd Hirsch also made his way to Kimmel, who was in good spirits standing next to his wife and producer, Molly McNeamey, as he sipped red wine.

"I thought it was a good show," screenwriter Tony Kushner said on his way out. "I thought Jimmy Kimmel did great."

Brian Tyree Henry snapped a photo with Troy Kotsur, who won a best supporting actor award for his role in "CODA" at last year's Oscars, on his way out the door, leaving Kotsur free a few moments later to run after Michelle Williams. When she stopped and turned around, Kotsur complimented Williams on bringing such authenticity to her role in "The Fabelmans."

"Thank you so much," she said. "That's exactly what we wanted to do."

By 9:30, some were ready to go. Hugh Grant pointed to the exit and, separately, Sigourney Weaver wasn't far behind. Vanity Fair was underway already, after all, and a drive away. Grant would be sipping champagne there soon after. Weaver, Kimmel and Hirsch soon followed.

Parents need a reminder that their words matter

DEAR ABBY: While shopping at the mall, I have seen too many stressed-out parents ignore or yell at their children. It certainly isn't helpful. It isn't how I was raised or how I raised mine. Years ago, I saw a poem in your column that addressed the ramifications of bad parenting versus good parenting. From what I've been seeing, you should print it again. Many parents who should read it won't see themselves in it, but it could help the ones who do. Its message is so important. Thank you.

JANET F. IN MINNESOTA

DEAR JANET: I know the poem you are referring to and I agree it sends an important message for parents. It's one of many profound poems and essays included in my "Keepers" booklet, which was compiled because so many readers requested reprints of their favorites. Read on:

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE by Dorothy Law Nolte

- If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn
- If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight
- If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy
- If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty
- If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient
- If a child lives with encouragement, he learns

confidence

- If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate
- If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice
- If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith
- If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

■ This is just one of the poems, essays and letters that appear in the Keepers booklet. Some are witty, others are philosophical.

■ The topics include children, animals, aging, parenting, death and forgiveness. It can be ordered by sending your name and address plus a check or money order (U.S. funds) for \$8 to Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Filled with down-to-earth nuggets of wisdom, it's a quick, easy read and an inexpensive gift for newlyweds, pet lovers, new parents or anyone recovering from an illness because it covers a wide variety of subjects.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating outside my marriage. My husband doesn't know. It's nothing serious -- just dinner, drinks and dancing. All the men have been single. I would never go out with a married man. All of them have respected my boundaries. I don't want to be unfaithful to

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



my husband; I'm just having a little fun. Do you think a little goodnight kiss would be OK, to show my appreciation?

SLIGHTLY NAUGHTY IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR SLIGHTLY NAUGHTY: No, I do not. A good-night kiss would be no more appropriate than dating on the sly has been. A better solution would be for you to teach your husband to dance.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



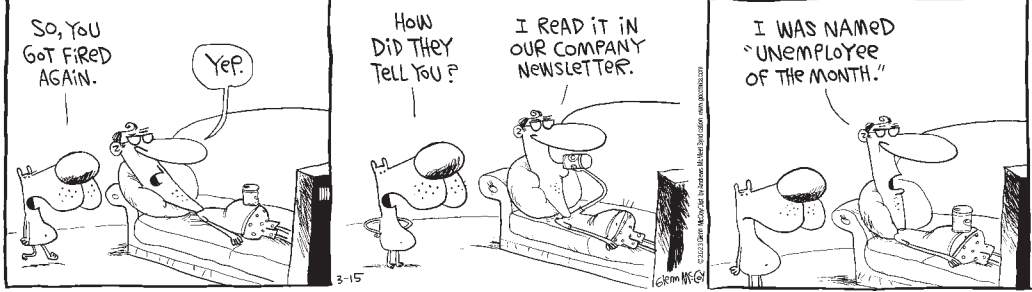
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hastens
5 Spasm
8 Raced
12 Smell — (suspect)
13 Köln cry
14 Prado display
15 Diatribe
17 Reddish horse
18 Jellied entrees
19 Stable enclosures
21 "Empire" actress
22 Ex-Yankee Martinez
23 URL suffix
26 Devious
28 Beer type
31 Milne bruin
33 Long, skinny fish
35 Sleeve end
36 Sleep problem
38 Entanglement

DOWN

1 "Funny!"
2 401(k)
3 Tombstone
4 Laundry woe
5 Clutter-clearing event
6 Post-op area
7 Toy container
8 Adirondack lake
9 Intro
10 List-ending abbr.
11 Cozy rooms
16 "JAG" spinoff
20 Up to
23 IRS employee
24 "Alley —"
25 Capulet rival
27 Evergreen tree
29 Newt
30 "Mayberry —"
32 Warming devices
34 Migrating rodent
37 NPR's Shapiro
39 Release money
42 Enjoyed immensely
44 Trudges
45 Total failure
46 Perry's creator
48 Concoits
49 Litter's littlest
50 Beholds
53 Season opener?

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kel-lan Lutz, 38; will.i.am, 48; Eva Longoria, 48; Bret Michaels, 60.

Happy Birthday: Separating personal and professional situations will make it easier to bring about positive change. Organize your time to safeguard against weakness or criticism due to falling behind or giving up on an aspect of your life that needs nurturing. Prepare to change what isn't working for you and replace it with a plan encouraging success. Don't give up on love. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 22, 35, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put more emphasis on how you look and feel. Embrace trends and pursue knowledge and experience to help you stay ahead of anyone competing with you. Romance should be a priority. Make a promise that stabilizes your personal life. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Push your plans forward and gather knowledge, experience and skills to ensure you can go the distance. Decide who to trust, and work in unison to get things done. Maintain focus and don't waste your energy arguing when action is the quickest and safest route to success. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will color the facts to suit their needs. Do your research and drum up opportunities rather than wait for someone else to step in and take over. Update your image and make health a priority. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Pay attention to how you present and market yourself. Set the trends instead of following someone else. Let your creative imagination lead

the way and help you turn your day from ordinary to extraordinary. If you believe in yourself, so will everyone else. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Update your look and set the stage for what you want to experience next. Be open to suggestions, educational pursuits and new beginnings. Take an active role in helping others or pursuing something that encourages you to adopt new technology or trends. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take guessing out of the equation when dealing with domestic issues and relationships. Be direct, ask questions and look for common ground to benefit everyone in your household. Invest in yourself and your lifestyle. Embrace change to get positive results. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Work from home and you'll get more done. Don't let trivial matters get to you or escalate into something irreversible. Keeping the peace is in your best interest and will be what secures your position and what you get to do next. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your intense nature will help you bring about change. Go over the costs involved, and you'll find a budget-friendly way to make your plans affordable. Changing how you handle partners and shared expenses will be necessary to balance the books. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Observe in order to gain leverage over someone trying to talk you into something questionable. Understanding your options will help you gain power and encourage you to develop a better alternative. An alteration you make at home will add to your comfort. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pay attention and show compassion, but don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness and generosity. Make changes at home that are conducive to living life your way. Refuse to let anyone coerce you into something that doesn't sit right with you. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a moment to refresh your memory and remember what's important. Don't feel you have to change or move based on the decisions others make. Sit tight till something better comes along and do what puts your mind at ease. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Uncertainty will surface if you let your emotions take over and your anger mount. Choose a reason and offer practical solutions to reverse negativity when dealing with peers or loved ones. Stick to facts; embellishment will make matters worse. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are responsive, curious and determined. You are intense and thorough.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

2			3			6	7		
									8
		9	7		5	4			1
		3	6			1			
1				8			7		
	2		4						6
		9				4	6	7	
			9		6	8	3		
				4		5		9	

Difficulty: ★★★ 3-15
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays Answer

9	3	7	8	2	5	6	1	4
5	2	1	9	6	4	7	3	8
8	4	6	7	1	3	2	9	5
4	7	9	5	3	2	8	6	1
3	6	8	1	7	9	4	5	2
1	5	2	6	4	8	3	7	9
7	8	3	2	5	1	9	4	6
2	1	4	3	9	6	5	8	7
6	9	5	4	8	7	1	2	3

Difficulty: ★★ 3-14

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CINNAMON ROLLS Solution: 9 letters

S	F	R	E	E	Z	E	E	D	A	M	E	M	O	H
P	N	L	N	U	B	A	K	E	R	Y	F	R	R	S
R	R	I	U	D	D	N	A	L	N	I	F	E	O	E
I	S	E	S	F	B	I	T	E	L	M	P	C	U	R
N	W	D	M	I	F	L	E	L	A	A	S	I	N	F
K	E	A	I	A	A	Y	L	K	P	E	W	P	D	P
L	E	N	C	S	D	R	E	T	I	C	H	E	D	N
E	T	I	C	Y	E	N	S	I	C	D	H	C	N	
E	S	S	N	A	C	E	P	O	U	U	E	M	E	O
G	U	H	G	A	M	I	A	A	E	E	N	R	Z	M
A	B	S	M	H	C	E	S	S	S	E	U	A	A	A
K	O	O	C	E	G	G	S	E	T	T	F	W	L	N
C	R	R	T	S	I	O	M	I	X	E	R	F	G	N
A	A	L	L	I	N	A	V	I	R	N	E	V	O	I
P	E	A	N	U	T	S	M	L	E	M	A	R	A	C

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Aroma, Bakery, Bite, Bun, Caramel, Cheese, Cinnamon, Coffee, Cream, Danish, Eggs, Fill, Finland, Fluffy, Freeze, Fresh, Glazed, Homemade, Icing, Make, Mixer, Mixture, Moist, Oven, Package, Pan, Parchment, Paper, Peanuts, Pecans, Premade, Raisins, Recipe, Rise, Robust, Round, Salt, Sauce, Spice, Sprinkle, Sweden, Sweet, Vanilla, Warm, Yeast
Yesterdays Answer: Home
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Thompson, Curry lead Warriors past Suns, 123-112



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Klay Thompson scored 33 of his 38 points in the first half, Stephen Curry added 23 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Phoenix Suns 123-112 on Monday night.

Jordan Poole had 20 points and six assists off the bench for the defending champions. Kevin Looney helped the Warriors win their eighth straight home game and 12th of 13 with nine points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Golden State is 29-7 at home but 7-26 on the road.

Devin Booker scored 32 points and Deandre Ayton had 27 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns, who roared back after halftime to make it interesting.

Josh Okogie's 3 with 4:59 left in the third pulled Phoenix within 85-81 and his putback a minute later made it 87-84 before Curry and Co. came on again.

BUCKS 133, KINGS 124

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 46 points and 12 rebounds as Milwaukee beat Sacramento.

Khris Middleton scored 31 points and Brook Lopez added 23 for the Bucks, who are on the verge of becoming the first team to clinch a playoff berth this season. They came needing a win and a Miami loss, but the Heat beat Utah.

Domantas Sabonis had 23 points, 17 rebounds and 15 assists for his 10th triple-double of the season for Sacramento.

De'Aaron Fox scored 35

points to lead the Kings, and Kevin Huerter had 17 of his 28 in the fourth quarter.

GRIZZLIES 104, MAVERICKS 88

DALLAS (AP)—Desmond Bane scored 23 points and Memphis won a second consecutive game against Dallas with all three of the teams' All-Stars out.

Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving sat for Dallas with injuries, and Ja Morant remained away from the Grizzlies because of his issues off the court.

Rookie David Roddy scored 19 points on 8-of-11 shooting for Memphis.

Rookie Jaden Hardy scored 28 points for the Mavericks, who dropped under .500 for the first time since December. Josh Green was the only other Dallas player in double figures with 23.

ROCKETS 111, CELTICS 109

HOUSTON (AP)—Jalen Green scored 28 points and rookie Jabari Smith Jr. added 24 as Houston held off Boston.

The Rockets, who are tied with Detroit for the NBA's fewest wins with 16, snapped a three-game skid despite allowing the Celtics' Jaylen Brown to score a season-high 43 points.

Jayson Tatum scored 22 points but missed a potential tying layup at the buzzer for the Celtics.

Kenyon Martin Jr. had 20 points and eight rebounds for Houston.

HEAT 119, JAZZ 115

MIAMI (AP)—Jimmy Butler



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates after making a 3-point basket in front of Phoenix Suns forward Josh Okogie (2) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Monday, March 13, 2023.

scored 24 points, Tyler Herro and Gabe Vincent each scored 18 and Miami held off Utah.

Lauri Markkanen scored 38 points for Utah, which got 23 from Simone Fontecchio and 14 from Ochai Agbaji.

Talen Horton-Tucker put Utah on top with a short jumper with 1:16 left, and Herro gave Miami the lead right back on a 3-pointer with 55.3 seconds remaining.

Bam Adebayo added 16 points for Miami.

TIMBERWOLVES 136, HAWKS 115

ATLANTA (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored 32 points in his hometown, Kyle Anderson had his third career triple-double and Minnesota beat Atlanta.

Trae Young finished with 41 points for the Hawks, who dropped to 3-5 under new

coach Quin Snyder and have lost four of six. Atlanta went 4 for 22 beyond the arc and hand-

ed out 17 assists compared to 39 for Minnesota.

Anderson scored 12 of his

March Madness: Alabama, Houston, Kansas, Purdue the 1 seeds

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP National Writer



The top overall seed, Alabama, has been on a roll despite being entangled in a murder case. Another No. 1 seed, defending national champion Kansas, is coming off a blow-out loss and has a coach coming out of the hospital. Yet another, Houston, just watched its best player go down in a heap with a scary injury.

This year's March Madness frontrunners are anything but perfect, but the presence of these teams and all their questions at the top of the bracket could make for precisely what the NCAA wants its tournament to be — a perfectly unpredictable mess.

Most of the drama in picking this year's bracket was resolved far before Selection Sunday.

Arizona State and Nevada made it off the bubble and into the 68-team field. Rutgers and Oklahoma State did not. Purdue, with 7-foot-4 Zach Edey leading the way, edged out UCLA for the fourth and final No. 1 seed.

And in a decision most everyone saw coming, the selection committee left North Carolina, last year's national runner-up, out of the tournament. It made the Tar Heels the first team since the bracket expanded to 64 teams in 1985 to start the season ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press poll and finish it by not making the Big Dance.

The team they lost to, Kansas, is trying to become the first back-to-back NCAA champion since Florida in 2007.

The Jayhawks earned the top seed in the West Region, but

only the third overall, behind the Crimson Tide and the Cougars. The Jayhawks are awaiting the return of coach Bill Self, who went to the hospital last week complaining of chest tightness and concerns with his balance. He has been discharged and is expected back this week.

The head of the selection committee, Chris Reynolds, said it took every injury, and every absence, into account.

"It's certainly something the committee talked about during the course of the year, and certainly played a factor in seeding and selection," said Reynolds, the athletic director at Bradley.

He said the committee also did not ignore lopsided losses: Two of Kansas' seven Ls came in March to Texas, a No. 2 seed, by 16 and 20 points.

"They mark it how they feel and we're just going to do what we need to do to get where we need to be," Kansas forward KJ Adams said.

The tournament begins Tuesday with two First Four games. The full madness starts Thursday with 16 first-round games, then 16 more the next day.

Kansas' loss to Texas in the Big 12 semifinal Saturday likely played into FanDuel Sportsbook setting the Jayhawks at 10-1 to win the title, behind both Alabama of the South Region (8-1 odds) and the overall favorite, Houston (5-1 odds), which would be playing the Final Four in its hometown if it wins the Midwest Region. The semifinals and finals are set for NRG Stadium on April 1 and 3.

The Cougars lost their conference title game Sunday, in large part because they were without Marcus Sasser, the leading scorer who left the previous day's

14 points in the third quarter and had 12 assists and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, which snapped a two-game skid. Mike Conley had 21 points for the Timberwolves and Jaden McDaniels scored 19.

PISTONS 117, PACERS 97

DETROIT (AP)—James Wiseman had 18 points and 14 rebounds as Detroit ended an 11-game skid by beating Indiana.

The Pistons, who hadn't won since beating San Antonio 138-131 in double overtime on Feb. 10, led by 31 points in the first half and held off an Indiana surge late in the second quarter and early in the third.

Cory Joseph led Detroit with 22 points, Jalen Duren put up 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Killian Hayes had 10 points and 11 assists.

Jordan Nwora scored 20 points off the bench for Indiana.

game early after sliding awkwardly and hurting his groin.

Purdue likely found its way onto the "1" line when it won the program's second Big Ten tournament title Sunday, less than 24 hours after UCLA, also dinged-up this season, fell by two to Arizona in the Pac-12 title game.

For Alabama, the SEC tournament was a relative breeze — nobody stayed within double digits of the Tide — unlike the past two months, which have been met with a near constant flow of headlines about a former player, Darius Miles, who is accused of capital murder in the Jan. 15 killing of 23-year-old Jamea Harris.

"I'm not sure we would have predicted this," said coach Nate Oats of the Tide, which is a No. 1 seed for the first time. "Being the No. 1 overall seed is great. It says what an unbelievable regular season we've had. You've still got to go win the games."

The SEC and Big Ten led the way by placing eight teams each in the 68-team field. Duke won the ACC for the 22nd time and was one of five teams from that conference in a relatively weak year.

But this tournament is always about more than big schools with big pedigrees.

Some teams to watch for include 13th-seeded Iona, coached by the legend, Rick Pitino, who has the Gaels in the show for the second time in three years—with some people wondering if he'll be heading over to a vacant job at St. John's soon. Iona got a brutal draw — a first-round meeting against fourth-seeded UConn.

Grizzlies stay mum on return of Morant beyond next game

DALLAS (AP)—The Memphis Grizzlies aren't saying when star point guard Ja Morant will return with one game remaining in a four-game sabbatical the team said he needed to deal with personal issues.

Morant was away from the team for a fifth consecutive game on Monday night, a 104-88 victory over Dallas that gave the Grizzlies a sweep of a home-and-home set with the Mavericks.

Citing unidentified sources, ESPN reported during the game that Morant has entered a counseling program in Florida. Coach Taylor Jenkins declined to comment on that report.

"Outside of what I've said in the past, respectful to the nature of the situation and stuff, I think I said on the outset he was taking time and responsibility to get better himself so he could be

better for our team," Jenkins said. "I'm not going to really comment further until there's more updates necessary."

Morant is away from the team after posting a video recently in which the 23-year-old two-time All-Star appeared to be displaying a gun at a Denver-area strip club.

The sixth game of Morant's absence will be Wednesday night at Miami, but Jenkins said the club isn't ready to indicate what will happen after that.

"There are a lot of internal dialogues going on," Jenkins said before the game. "There are still things going on at the league level that we're in communication with. Ja's fully engaged in this process and whatever comes next after these two games."

The Grizzlies are in a tight race for the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference with Sacramento, with those

teams about three games clear of a tightly packed group trying to stay in the top six and avoid the West play-in tournament.

"We're focused on winning basketball games," said guard Desmond Bane, who led the Grizzlies with 23 points in Monday's victory over Dallas. "Obviously, Ja's getting help. Whenever he's ready to return to the team, we're going to welcome him with open arms."

Memphis won its third consecutive game without Morant after losing the first two he missed. The Grizzlies were 20-5 without him last year, when they finished second in the West.

"I think it's a lot of factors," Jenkins said of the success without Morant last season. "It's not about doing more. It's just about, in your opportunity, play better, just seek the opportunities."

Source: Jimmy Garoppolo, Raiders agree to 3-year deal



HENDERSON, Nev. (AP)—Jimmy Garoppolo has agreed to a three-year, \$67.5 million contract with the Raiders, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Monday, likely answering the question of who will be Las Vegas' starting quarterback next season.

The person spoke to The AP on condition of anonymity because the deal can't be announced until Wednesday.

Garoppolo's contract includes \$34 million in the guaranteed money, the person said.

The Raiders have been linked to Garoppolo almost from the moment coach Josh McDaniels benched nine-year starter Derek Carr with two weeks left in the season. Carr, the Raiders' all-time leader with 35,222 passing yards and 217 touchdown passes, has since signed with the New Orleans Saints.

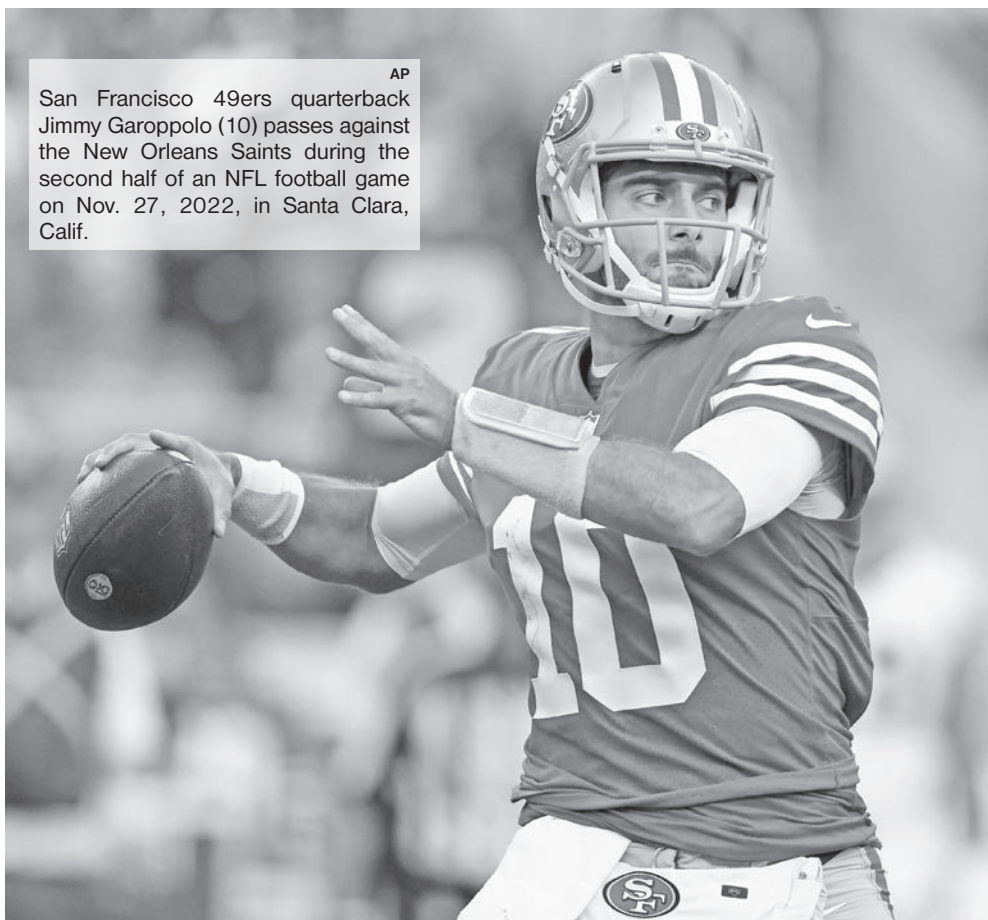
McDaniels was the Patriots' offensive coordinator when Garoppolo backed up Tom Brady in New England beginning in 2014. With Brady locked in as the starter, Garoppolo was traded to San Francisco during the 2017 season and immediately became the 49ers' starter.

He was effective when healthy, going 38-17 and taking the Niners to the 2019 and 2021 NFC championship games. San Francisco made the Super Bowl in the 2019 season.

But the 31-year-old Garoppolo has had several significant injuries. In 2018, he suffered a season-ending knee injury in San Francisco's third game, and in 2020 he missed eight games with ankle injuries.

The 49ers had planned to trade Garoppolo before last season and start Trey Lance, the third overall pick in the 2021 draft whom San Fran-

AP
San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (10) passes against the New Orleans Saints during the second half of an NFL football game on Nov. 27, 2022, in Santa Clara, Calif.



cisco gave up three first-round picks to acquire. Garoppolo underwent offseason shoulder surgery, killing trade interest in him from other clubs, so the 49ers re-signed him at a reduced deal.

When Lance was injured two games into the season, Garoppolo again took over as the starter. He was having his best year, throwing 16 touchdown passes and four interceptions in 10 games, before going down with a season-ending foot injury.

Rookie Brock Purdy, the last player selected in last year's draft, took over and led the Niners to the NFC championship game, where they lost to Philadelphia. Purdy suffered an elbow injury early in that game and had surgery last week, but after he concludes his rehab, the Niners will have two potential starters on the roster in Purdy and Lance.

Garoppolo joins a Raiders

team coming off a 6-11 season, but with an offense that includes wide receivers Davante Adams and Hunter Renfrow and tight end Darren Waller. Las Vegas also has placed the franchise tag on running back Josh Jacobs, who led the NFL in rushing last season.

The Raiders own the seventh pick in the draft and could draft a quarterback with that selection or one in the later rounds. Expected backup Jarrett Stidham agreed to sign with the AFC West rival Denver Broncos.

They have plenty of salary cap space, especially after restructuring defensive end Maxx Crosby's contract to free up \$7.5 million, according to ESPN. Including Garoppolo's deal, Las Vegas has \$27.4 million in cap space, according to overthecap.com.

The Raiders have plenty of needs to address, particularly on the offensive line and throughout the defense.

NFL will consider reviewing roughing-the-passer penalties

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL's competition committee will consider making roughing-the-passer penalties and personal-foul penalties subject to video review.

The two potential rule changes were among nine the league announced Monday in its 2023 playing rules, bylaw and resolution proposals submitted by clubs.

The Los Angeles Rams proposed the change that would allow teams to challenge roughing-the-passer calls. Several such calls sparked outrage last season, leaving players and coaches questioning what constitutes a legal hit on a quarterback.

The Detroit Lions proposed giving teams an opportunity to challenge personal foul calls.

The competition committee

will consider the rule changes later this month when NFL owners gather in Arizona for their annual meeting.

Other proposals include an option to try to convert a fourth-and-20 from the kicking team's 20-yard line instead of attempting an onside kick. The Philadelphia Eagles submitted that proposal. The Eagles are also asking the competition committee to consider allowing players to wear No. 0.

The Lions also proposed giving clubs more opportunities for a third challenge and expanding the replay official's jurisdiction to allow for consultation regarding penalty assessment.

The Houston Texans proposed expanding the replay official's jurisdiction to allow for review on failed fourth down attempts.

The New York Jets proposed

an amendment to expand the crackback prohibition to players who go in motion and go beyond the center to block ("split-flow block") a defender below the waist.

The Los Angeles Chargers proposed adjustment of the play clock following an instant replay reversal consistent with other timing rules.

Two bylaws proposals involve emergency quarterbacks and playoff seeds.

The Lions proposed allowing teams to designate an emergency third quarterback from their inactive list or practice squad who would be eligible to enter a game if the first two quarterbacks on the active list are ruled out.

The Chargers proposed seeding wild-card teams ahead of division champions if the division champ has a losing record

(under .500 winning percentage) and the wild-card team has at least four more wins.

Among the resolution proposals is one submitted by 25 teams that would establish one preseason roster reduction date instead of the current three.

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Japanese stars Ohtani, Sasaki turn Czech players into fans



TOKYO (AP)—Players become fans, collect souvenirs, chase autographs and cherish memories—some painful.

That's a common thread running through the World Baseball Classic when opponents face Los Angeles Angels star Shohei Ohtani and his Japanese teammates.

Take the case of Czech Republic teammates William Escala and Ondrej Satoria, whose team was eliminated from the WBC on Monday in a 8-3 loss to Australia.

Escala crumbled to the

ground writhing in pain on Saturday when Japanese pitcher Roki Sasaki thumped his left leg with a 100 mph fastball.

The 21-year-old Sasaki is a top pitching prospect in Japan, and threw 21 pitches at 100 mph or more against the Czechs.

Escala crawled on his hands and knees after being hit, rolled over to his back, grabbed his left leg and cried out.

He said it was all worth it.

Escala kept the ball that hit him and wound up getting it signed when Sasaki met him on Monday to apologize.

Yes, apologize.



AP
William Escala of Czech Republic reacts after he was hit by pitcher Roki Sasaki of Japan while batting during their Pool B game at the World Baseball Classic at the Tokyo Dome, Japan, Saturday, March 11, 2023.

"He gave me some goodies, and a bunch of different candies and stuff like that," Escala explained. "And then I asked him if he could sign the ball as a memory for me. Something I will keep. Very cool. Something I'll cherish and never forget."

For Satoria—the Czech pitcher's first name is pronounced Andre—there's the memory of striking out Ohtani on three pitches in Saturday's 10-2 loss to Japan. In fact, he struck out three of Japan's first four batters.

Satoria recounted all three pitches, the last a change-up in the dirt that Ohtani almost lost his helmet chasing.

Satoria kept the ball, too, but what he didn't get was

Ohtani's signature on it. Satoria said he tried through a clubhouse attendant to make contact with the Angels two-way star.

"It didn't work," Satoria said, explaining the request perhaps did not reach the Los Angeles Angels star.

"But it doesn't matter," he added. "I've got the ball and it's really cool."

Satoria, who said he works back home as an "electric technician" and is an amateur like all the Czech players, took dirt from the mound and put it into a glass container, and he'll be looking for a place to display the memories.

"I'm not sure yet. Maybe in the living room," he said. "Everybody will want to see it."

Wang, Tang lead junior, youth finishers of Triple J 5K

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Out of more than 1,200

participants of the Triple J Saipan 5K Family Fun Run/Walk's Bubble Color Run last Saturday, young students Jireh Wang and Eamon Tang were the fastest in their respective divisions.

Wang, an Agape Christian School student-athlete, outran participants in the male junior 14-19 age group from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Quartermaster Road and back with a time of 19:27. Right at his heels was Ivan Lee with a time of 20:43, then a few seconds behind was Simon Tang with 20:52.

For Wang, he said that this is his first Triple J Bubble Run and that it was a fun experience. He said he felt that he could've run a faster time but he enjoyed the race nonetheless.

In the male youth U13 division, Tang from Northern Marianas International School sprinted to the colorful finish line with a time of 28:00. Second to him was Reyiel at 31:43 and third was Joey Mostales' time of 33:32.

Tang said that it was his first Bubble Color Run and that "it was a breeze with the cool weather, so I thought I'd mix things up from the other



LEIGH GASES

Jireh Wang is the male junior 14 to 19 age group winner of the Triple J Saipan 5K Family Fun Run/Walk's Bubble Color Run last Saturday. Second is Ivan Lee, not pictured, and third is Simon Tang.

thousands of runners by going barefoot and just having fun. It was my first time joining this race, but it definitely won't be my last!"

The female youth U13 division was dominated by Lovell Spaeth with a time of 30:49, second was Allie Brasuell with 31:27, and third was Windsor Gross with a time of 41:32.

The female junior 14-19 age group was topped by Zining Wang with 28:01; second was Jian Chan's 28:35; and third was Diana Dong's 35:28.

In the male open 20-29 division, Andrew Ferrer came in first with a time of 23:18,

followed by Simon Necesito's 25:09 and John Oliver's 26:19.

The female open division was won by Gaun Yang with a time of 33:32; second was Celine Ko's time of 43:01; then Cesiha Maclang's time of 44:51.

In the male submaster 30-39 division, Kurt Songsong won with a time of 28:26; Robert Mojica was second with a time of 28:55; and third was John Bigalbal with a time of 31:02.

The female submaster division was won by Ding Fu Li with a time of 28:32; Roxanne Soriano came second with a time of 29:00; and Zaiyra Ganacias came in third with a

time of 29:57.

The male master 40-49 age group was won by Joel Phair with a time of 21:17; Johnny McGlenn came in second at 23:43; and third was Dominador Andrada at 25:27.

Megan Dame won the female master age group with a time of 27:40; Sheila Mabutas came in second with 30:29; and third was Christina Kamalo with 31:01.

James Abuy came in first in the male senior 50-59 age group with a time of 24:47; Ricardo Delos Santos came second at 26:39; and Tim Role came in third with 26:51.

Jessica Ortizo sprinted to first in the female senior division with 26:55; Triple J's Jane Jones came a close second with 27:11; and Meihua Jin

came in third with 32:10.

The male grandmaster 60-and-up age group was dominated by barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee at 22:13 followed by fellow barefoot runner Chang Wan Jang at 25:41; Ponciano Corotan came in third with 30:15.

Finally, the female grandmaster winner was Marcia Schultz with a time of 33:38; Marie Babauta came in second with a time of 38:43; and Emma Santos came in third with a time of 45:10.

To top off the event, an Agape Christian School student, Yutian Luo won the raffle grand prize from United Airlines.

Participants—competitive or joining just for fun—were greeted with explosions of

colored powder at designated stops along Beach Road then at the finish line, they were met with more explosions of color. They then made their way to "shower" at the bubble machine—with kids and adults alike having fun with the special feature of the event.

Sponsors of the event were Tan Siu Lin Foundation, United Airlines, Bank of Guam, Marianas Variety, Mobil Oil Marianas, Power 99, IT&E, Ahglow Products USA, Spa Ocean, Latte Built Gym & Fitness, AB Risk Solution, McDonald's, Marpac, Micronesians Brokers Inc., Coca Cola, Docomo Pacific, Island Apparel, Gold's Gym, Sound Hires, Yaong Corp., Ideal Sign, Saipan Computer Services, Matson, and Triple J.

Bae is Fil-Taga February Ace winner

By MARK RABAGO

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REPORTER

Hak Chon Bae qualified for the yearend Fil-Taga Golfers Association

Ace of Aces Tournament after topping the February competition last Feb. 18 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The 16-handicapper shot a net score of 70 after shooting identical 43s in the front and back nine for a gross of 86.

Jhun Cayetano actually tied Bae with his net 70, but lost via

scorecard tiebreaker.

He came away with a gross of 95 (47-48), but wound up as the co-leader due to his 25 handicap.

Rounding out the Top 3 was Adony Matutino who shot a net 76 following a 50-42 in the first nine and last nine holes to wound up with a gross of 92.

The 16-handicapper actually tied with Mike Cruz, but edged him via another scorecard tiebreaker. Cruz came away with his net 76 following a 47-48 performance in the



Bae

front and back nines for a gross of 95.

A total of 13 Fil-Taga members took part in the February tournament and they are the following with their net scores in parenthesis:

Bert Suda (77); Tom Palikkun (78); Henry Bautista (79); Freddie Cataluna (79); Roland Merar (79); Ruben Avendano (82); Ed Varias (89); and Chris Imbo (100).

Par 3 winners were Avendano, Cabrera, and Merar who each pocketed \$16.50 for their feats.

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uel were Sernantie Jimenez, seniors Brian Lubao and Daniell Pablo, Shemariah Hicaro, and Angela Maratas.

Dolphins 2—also coached by Manuel—bagged second place with 20 total points. They fell to sister team 1, 6-9; won a close match against Torchbearers 1, 8-7; and lost to the Torchbearers 2, 6-9.

Boys in the Dolphins 2 lineup consisted of Marlon Bautista, Jan Dumagan, Brandon Manacop, and Paulo Quidato. The girls consisted of Seiyul Hong, Zhimin Jin, Vianca Mangulabnan, Enmei Quan, and Angieleysha Punzalan.

The Torchbearers 1 and 2 were both third place with 18 points each. Torchbearers 1

included David Zhao, Louis Chen, Allen Ye, James Fan, Michael Ma, and the girls lineup of Tina Zheng, Ruth Zhang, and Susie Zheng. Torchbearers 2 consisted of Serena Chen, Eunice Xu, Elim Huang, Caleb Cui, John Chen, Stanley Zhang, and Aaron Zheng.

Manuel, who has been coaching for the past couple of years and was part of the NMI National Badminton Team in the Northern Marianas Pacific MIni Games 2022, said in an interview that the Dolphins have been practicing since last September.

"I made team selections mid-September and began training right after. With the goal of redemption in mind, I carefully planned out intense and specific training plans. For the first few months, we trained three days a

week, then began training five days a week starting November. Some days were focused on racquet and game skills, while other days were meant for strength and conditioning," said Manuel.

Manuel said that the finals against ACS was challenging. "Both teams had to play three games for most of their matches, so they really worked hard to earn their wins. Because the MHS 1 and 2 teams train together, their final matches against each other were pretty balanced. However, our matches against ACS were determined by which player(s) could read the game smarter. Per game, I advised them on what weaknesses to expose, which was pretty difficult to do with having to watch two games simultaneously and run back and forth to each team," he said. With that, throughout

the season, he said the Torchbearers were the toughest teams they faced.

To the team, Manuel said, "I would like to recognize the efforts and improvements of all my players. The training I conducted was certainly not easy, but I'm wholeheartedly proud of them for showing up

and fighting through the pain, sweat, and tears to earn their victory. Going on this journey with them allowed me to realize what it takes to be a coach and see them through until the end. I am sincerely grateful to them for giving me this chance."

He then thanked fellow coaches James Digno and

Eun Benavente, as well as the Northern Marianas Badminton Association "for hosting the interscholastic league and providing a venue for us to train. Additionally, I would like to thank my players' families, MHS, and anyone who has supported us from the very beginning."

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think if China gets involved in the sport, it'll change the dynamic," said Moore, who is now based in Japan and operates Pickleball Trips, a company taking pickleball players to world-class destinations around the world.

The Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands, which invited Moore to the

island, was established just a couple of years ago and already boasts more than 150 members.

The group's president, Nelson Krum, earlier said in order for the International Olympic Committee to consider pickleball as a sport in the quadrennial event, it should be played in 75 countries.

The group last year was admitted as an associate member of the International Federation of Pickleball.

Group vice president Don Dunlop, meanwhile, thanked Moore for his two-day clinic on Saipan.

"He's just the nicest guy and I see why the Japanese culture just loves him so much. He's so kind and he's very respectful, and he's one of the top players in the world and beat Ben Johnson and Matt Ride back in 2015 and 2016. So he's bringing that success to us. We're so fortunate to have had Daniel Moore here."

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Then, with two outs and their last chance, Rachel Salalila brought in Aldan and herself with an inside-the-park home run that snagged the W away from BDE, 11-10.

Earlier in the game, BDE's Emy Oiterong started off the offensive and was brought in by pitcher Sonia Isaac. Their lineup continued the assault

against the Lady Blue Jays' pitcher and defense as they brought in four runs in the second inning off a couple of defensive errors.

Isaac had it locked down at the mound as she blitzed a series of strikeouts and easy outs against the Lady Blue Jays' lineup—and when it seemed that the Ladies were just not in the game, Amy Cabrera and Rayna Deleon Guerrero made it on base and were brought in by Alannah

Sablan and Keolani Rios in the second inning.

The Lady Blue Jays' Kiana Camacho then started off the third inning with an inside-the-park home run and brought the momentum into the fourth inning as the ladies started to get into the groove of their swing—bringing in four runs and were up by two, 8-6.

Lady Blue Jays pitcher Bert Camacho managed to shut down the BDE lineup for three consecutive innings, allowing

her offense to catch up and capitalize—but in the sixth inning, a hit by BDE brought in Nikki Nakamura and it was one point away from a tied game, 8-7.

At the top of the last inning, BDE's bats came alive once again and three runs made by Oiterong, Kyona Tudela, and Allana Sumang came in to lead, 10-8, but a rally by the Lady Blue Jays handed them the L.

In the earlier game against the Hotshots and Lady Sufa, the former blazed through

a rainy day with a 25-3 final score.

The game ended in a run-mercy ruling as the Hotshots lineup burned the Lady Sufa's new pitcher just in the first inning with 15 runs.

The Lady Sufa couldn't get a grip on the ball and the bat as they weren't able to make a comeback after being down 22-1 by the end of the second inning.

Lady Sufa's Noreen Angui was the only one who dented

Hotshots pitcher Janice Celis' ERA as she belted an inside-the-park homerun, but it was too little too late as that was the extent of the damage and the game was called off early.

The Hotshots' Nish Mario had a homerun of her own in the second inning and brought in four RBIs and teammate Janica Lizama also had four RBIs.

The men's masters league results will come out in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



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Dolphins 1 are No. 1 in co-ed badminton



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Both Marianas High School teams, along with coach Leonard Manuel, front, third from right, pose with their championship medals and trophies along with Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino, front right, and MHS principal Jonathan Aguon, third from left, in the awards ceremony of the co-ed high school 2022-2023 Public School System/TakeCare Badminton Interscholastic League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

With the goal of redemption in mind, Marianas High School Dolphins team 1 is the champion of the co-ed high school 2022-2023 Public School System/TakeCare Badminton Interscholastic League after drowning out the Agape Christian School Torchbearers and their sister team 2 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

The Dolphins 1 began their rampage against Dolphins 2 and were evenly matched, but the power duo of seniors Ian Lubao and Kyle Salcedo swept the boys doubles games, 3-0. Teresa Ahn then won the girls singles, 2-1; Salcedo then fell in the boys singles, 0-3; but the girls doubles duo of Abigail Robles and Prapti Mondal claimed a 2-1 win; followed by a mixed doubles win of 2-1 by Lubao and Ahn for a final

score of 9-6.

Team 1 then swept the floor with the Torchbearers 1 as they won all events save for one match in the girls doubles for a 14-1 total.

The Dolphins ended their campaign against Torchbearers 2 with a win, 11-4 for an overall total of 34 points against all three opponents.

Joining the Dolphins 1 roster coached by Leonard Man-

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Moore confident pickleball will be an Olympic sport



MARK RABAGO

Daniel Moore, second from left, poses with Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands president Nelson Krum, left, and pickleball players from Isla Montessori Saipan during a break in his two-day pickleball clinic last week at the American Memorial Park.

By MARK RABAGO
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Daniel Moore, the world's No. 11 pickleball player, said he's confident that the fastest-growing sport will eventually become an Olympic sport.

"Sooner rather than later, pickleball will be an Olympic sport. There's already a professional league in the U.S. Maybe that will go to Asia and the rest of the world and it'll eventually be a global professional sport," he said during his recent visit to Saipan where he conducted a

two-day clinic.

The nine-time U.S. national pickleball champion also said he particularly wants the sport to grow exponentially in China, so it can speed up pickleball's entry to the Olympics.

"I think the one that I would really like to see playing a lot is China because it's so big. If the government decides that they want to invest in pickleball, I think immediately they'll have some of the best players in the world, just by population, and they also have academies. So

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Lady Blue Jays rally against BDE, 11-10



LEIGH GASES

Team BDE's Allana Sumang eyes and swings at a ball during their game in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League against the Lady Blue Jays last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Jays stunned BDE as they rallied at the bottom of the last inning to win, 11-10, in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

As is the Lady Blue Jays' modus operandi, it was

a slow burn for the team amidst the wet and muddy field and they were behind in the count, 6-2 by the second inning.

But, it was all-or-nothing for the Lady Blue Jays' last at-bat in the bottom of the last inning—and they delivered.

Keolani Rios slid safely into second base for a double, followed up by another double by Kianu Aldan which brought in Rios.

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